8900 6407
Wetterling
SD 24060

BCA Lab Item:
66.B

STEARNS COUNTY
EVIDENCE

24060
TAG # SD

Case # 8900 6407 | Offense Abduction

Description BCA Item 66.B

Model # | Serial #

Evidence Recovered at Paulsen Farm/BCA

Address

Collected by [illegible] | Agency #

Date & Time collected 8-13-11

Suspect

Victim

Evidence Room Location

Offense | Chain of Possession

Item | Qty | Date | Time

COPY

STEARNS COUNTY EVIDENCE 24060

TAG # SD

Case # B1006467 | Offense Abduction

Description BCA Item 6&8

Model # | Serial #

Evidence Recovered at Russia Evem/BCA

Address

Collected by Winkels | POST # 8528

Date & Time collected 8-12-11

Suspect

Victim Jacob Wetterling

Evidence Room Location Basement Bulk

Officer Winkels | POST # 8528

CHAIN OF POSSESSION

FROM	TO	DATE	TIME

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
Forensic Science Laboratory
1430 Maryland Avenue East
St. Paul, MN 55106

Evidence Release Form

Stearns County S.O.

Lab Case S890-1699
Department Case 89006407
Case Officer Det. Daniel Winkels

Item	Type and Packaging	Description / Source
66.B	One brown paper bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	apparent fabric, rivets, buttons, snaps, clasps, etc. sifted from the ash pile (item 66)
66.B-1	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	fabric with knots
66.B-2	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	sock
66.B-3	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	shoelace
66.B-4	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	blue material
66.B-5	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	mesh

Mailed to Department (Type of Service)

Julie A. Dornseif
Signature (Released By) / Date 7/28/2011

Stearns County S.O.
807 Courthouse Square
Room S100
St. Cloud, MN 56302-4773


S890-1699
Stearns County S.O.
89006407 (S 10/25/1989)

AOD

ST OF MN BCA
1430 MARYLAND AVE E
ST PAUL MN 55106
651/793-7000

Spee-Dee Barcode No:
SP 001588 42 0010 5241

PKG: 1
WT: 5

SPEE DEE

Ascent Version 8.30.0009.0000

PkgID: S890-1699

AOD
SIGNATURE REQUIRED

SHIP TO:

STEARNS CO SO
JOHN SANNER, SHERIFF
807 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
P O BOX 217

ST. CLOUD MN 56302

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
Forensic Science Laboratory
1430 Maryland Avenue East
St. Paul, MN 55106

Evidence Release Form

Stearns County S.O.

Lab Case S890-1699
Department Case 89006407
Case Officer Det. Daniel Winkels

Item	Type and Packaging	Description / Source
66.B	One brown paper bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	apparent fabric, rivets, buttons, snaps, clasps, etc. sifted from the ash pile (item 66)
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66.B-2	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	sock
66.B-3	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	shoelace
66.B-4	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	blue material
66.B-5	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	mesh

Julie A. Dornseif 7/28/2011

Mailed to Department (Type of Service)

Signature (Released By) / Date

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

Fabric

rivets, buttons, snaps, buckles,

cords, etc. from ash pit

7/26/10 CGG


EVIDENCE
EVIDENCE

white fabric w/
knots

Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66 B-1
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

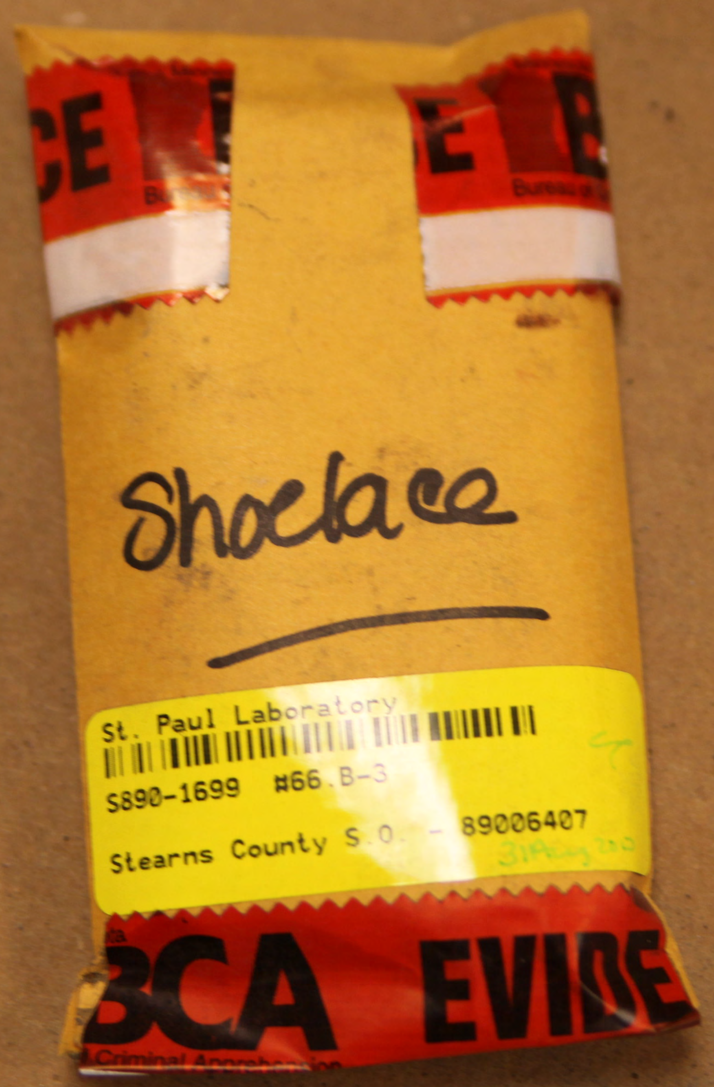
t fabric w/

lunots

Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66.B-1
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407
S.I.A.A. 2520






Shoelace
St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66.B-3
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407
BCA EVIDE


Shocla
St. Paul Laboratory
5890-1699 #66.B-3
Stearns County S.O. - 890064

Socks

St. Paul Laboratory

S890-1699 #66.B-2

Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

31 Aug 2010

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension





Mesh

St. Paul Laboratory

S890-1699 #66.B-5

Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

3/4/89

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension



Blue material

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66.B-4
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407





































































EVIDENCE

EVIDENCE

EVIDENCE

EVIDENCE

STEARNS COUNTY 22918
EVIDENCE TAG # 50

Case # 9910 6427 Offense Abduction

Description 62A Red shoe Nike

Model # Serial #

Evidence Recovered at BCA

Address

Collected by Winkels POST # 8528

Date & Time collected 9-2-10

Suspect DAN RASSIER

Victim JACOB WETTERLING

Evidence Room Location Basement

Officer DWD POST # 8528

CHAIN OF POSSESSION

FROM	TO	DATE	TIME

Shoelace from Ash pit
7/1/2010
SA Brian Kinney
FBI

U66

S890.1699
Hem62
07.01.10
BKW

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 H62
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

4
U66



EVIDENCE

EVIDENCE

EVIDENCE

EVIDENCE

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #61
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

Matt Parker + Det. Don Wrobels St. Cloud
FBI
7-1-10
2 Pieces of cloth from Burn pile (ash)

S890-1699
Item 61
07-01-10
BrW

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #61A
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #61B
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407


S890 - 1699
Ft. 61 A
02 Jul 2010


5890-1699
Item 61B
02 Jul 2010



EVIDENCE EVIDENCE EVIDENCE

CE EVIDENCE EVIDENCE

ENCE EVI EVIDEN

STEARNS COUNTY 22013
EVIDENCE TAG # SD

Case # 8900640 7	Offense Abduction
Description 59 pieces of wood	
Model #	Serial #
Evidence Recovered at BCA	
Address	
Collected by Winkels	POST # 8528
Date & Time collected 9-2-10	
Suspect DAN RASSIER	
Victim Jacob Wetterling	
Evidence Room Location Basement	
Officer [redacted]	POST # 8528

CHAIN OF POSSESSION

FROM	TO	DATE	TIME

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #59
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

Item 59
S890-1699
1-11-10



EVIDENCE EVIDENCE EVIDEN
ENCE EVIDENCE EVID
DENCE E

STEARNS COUNTY EVIDENCE		22012 TAG # SD
Case # 89006407	Offense Abduction	
Description 58 wooden pieces		
Model #	Serial #	
Evidence Recovered at BCA		
Address		
Collected by Winkels	POST # 8528	
Date & Time collected 9-2-10		
Suspect Dan ~~BA~~ssier		
Victim JACOB Wetterling		
Evidence Room Location Basement		
Officer	POST # 8528	

CHAIN OF POSSESSION

FROM	TO	DATE	TIME

Hem 58
S890-1699
7/1/10

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #58
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407







St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66.C
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

166

Misc.
Debris & hairs/fibers

from ashpile
7/26/1066

EVIDENCE EVIDENCE EVIDENCE

STEARNS COUNTY EVIDENCE 22023

TAG # SD

Case # 8900607 Offense Abduction

Description 66C, Debris (Ash pile)

Model # Serial #

Evidence Recovered at BCA

Address

Collected by Winkels POST # 8528

Date & Time collected 9-2-10

Suspect DAN RASSIER

Victim JACOB WETTERLING

Evidence Room Location BASEMENT

Officer [illegible] POST # 8528

CHAIN OF POSSESSION

FROM	TO	DATE	TIME



VISA



VISA

VISA











Wette

8900 6407

SD25383

BCA Items:

Items from Rassiers Search - Summer 2010

51.A-1
52.A-1
58-1
59-1
60:D
60.E
66.A
66.A.15.a.1
66.A.15.a.2
67

STEARNS COUNTY EVIDENCE

25383

TAG # SD

Case # 8900 6407	Offense ~~Abduction~~
Description BCA Items as listed on ATTACHED document	
Model #	Serial #
Evidence Recovered at CEC	
Address	
Collected by winkels	POST # 8528
Date & Time collected 8-12-11	
Suspect	
Victim JACOB WETTERLING	
Evidence Room Location Bulk - Basement	
Officer winkels	POST # 8528

CHAIN OF POSSESSION

FROM	TO	DATE	TIME

STEARNS COUNTY EVIDENCE		25383 TAG # SD
Case # B9006407	Offense Abduction	
Description BCA Items as listed on Attached Document		
Model #	Serial #	
Evidence Recovered at LEC		
Address		
Collected by winkels	POST # 8528	
Date & Time collected 8-12-11		
Suspect		
Victim Jacob Wetterling		
Evidence Room Location Bulk-Basement		
Officer winkels	POST # 8528	

CHAIN OF POSSESSION			
FROM	TO	DATE	TIME

[redacted]

Evidence Release Form

Stearns County S.O.

Lab Case 5890-1699
Department Case 89006407
Case Officer Det. Daniel Winkels

Item	Type and Packaging	Description / Source
51.A-1	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as a swab	from the metal umbrella stand from the garage attic
52.A-1	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as a swab	from the wooden chaise lounge from the garage attic
58-1	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as a swabbing from Item	wood pieces from the garage attic
59-1	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as a swabbing from Item	wood pieces from the garage attic
60.D	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as a swab of apparent blood	(phenolphthalein and sterile) from the interior side wall of the trunk (Item 60)
60.D-1	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as a swab of apparent blood	(phenolphthalein) from the interior side wall of the trunk (Item 60)
60.D-2	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as a swab of apparent blood	(sterile) from the interior side wall of the trunk (Item 60)
60.E	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as a swab of apparent blood	(phenolphthalein and sterile) from the interior side wall of the trunk (Item 60)

Mailed to Department (Type of Service)

Signature (Released By) / Date 8/11/2011

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Evidence Release Form

Stearns County S.O.

Lab Case S890-1699
Department Case 89006407
Case Officer Det. Daniel Winkels

Item	Type and Packaging	Description / Source
60.E-1	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as a swab of apparent blood	(phenolphthalein) from the interior side wall of the trunk (Item 60)
60.E-2	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as a swab of apparent blood	(sterile) from the interior side wall of the trunk (Item 60)
66.A	One brown paper bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66)
66.A.1	One brown paper bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "app tooth"
66.A.2	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "skin"
66.A.3	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - unpackaged bones
66.A.4	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "non human unburned bone vertebrae 20 pieces"

Mailed to Department (Type of Service)

Debbie Ronsar 8/11/2011
Signature (Released By) / Date

[redacted]

Evidence Release Form

Stearns County S.O.

Lab Case S890-1699
Department Case 89006407
Case Officer Det. Daniel Winkels

Item	Type and Packaging	Description / Source
66.A.5	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "non human unburned bone scapula/clavicle/ribs ~35 pieces"
66.A.6	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "non human unburned bone crania/teeth ~11 pieces"
66.A.7	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "non bone"
66.A.8	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "non human unburned bone limb bones ~76 pieces"
66.A.9	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "non human unburned bone hand/foot miscellaneous/unknown ~36 pieces"

Mailed to Department (Type of Service)

Signature (Released By) / Date 8/11/2011

[redacted]
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
Forensic Science Laboratory
[redacted]
St. Paul, MN 55106

Evidence Release Form

Stearns County S.O.

Lab Case S890-1699
Department Case 89006407
Case Officer Det. Daniel Winkels

Item	Type and Packaging	Description / Source
66.A.10	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "non human 7 bones (burned)... "
66.A.11	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "non human burned bone limb bones ~19 pieces"
66.A.12	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "non human burned bone hand/feet bones 8 pieces"
66.A.13	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "non human burned bone vertebrae bones 17 pieces"
66.A.14	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "non human burned bone misc unid'd ~135 pieces"

Mailed to Department (Type of Service)

Signature (Released By) / Date 8/11/2011

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
Forensic Science Laboratory
1430 Maryland Avenue East
St. Paul, MN 55106

Evidence Release Form

Stearns County S.O.

Lab Case 5890-1699
Department Case 89006407
Case Officer Det. Daniel Winkels

Item	Type and Packaging	Description / Source
66.A.15 66A.15.a.1 66A.15.a.2	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "Not determinable No diagnostic human/non human features burned bone ~250 pieces"
66.A.15.	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66)"
66.A.15.	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66)
66.A.15.	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66)
66.A.15.	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "Not human burned bone ~96 fragments..."
66.A.15.	One plastic bag containing evidence classified as an item of evidence	bone and non-bone material from the ash pile (item 66) - "likely not human burned bone ~12 pieces"
67	One manila envelope containing evidence classified as reagent blank	of phenolphthalein

Mailed to Department (Type of Service)

Signature (Released By) / Date 8/11/2011

AOD

ST OF MN BCA
1430 MARYLAND AVE E
ST PAUL MN 55106
651/793-7000

Spee-Dee Barcode No:
SP 001588 42 0010 5573

PKG: 1
WT: 4

SPEE DEE

Ascent Version 8.30.0009.0000

PkgID: S890-1699

AOD
SIGNATURE REQUIRED

SHIP TO:

STEARNS CO SO
JOHN SANNER, SHERIFF
807 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
P O BOX 217

ST. CLOUD MN 56302

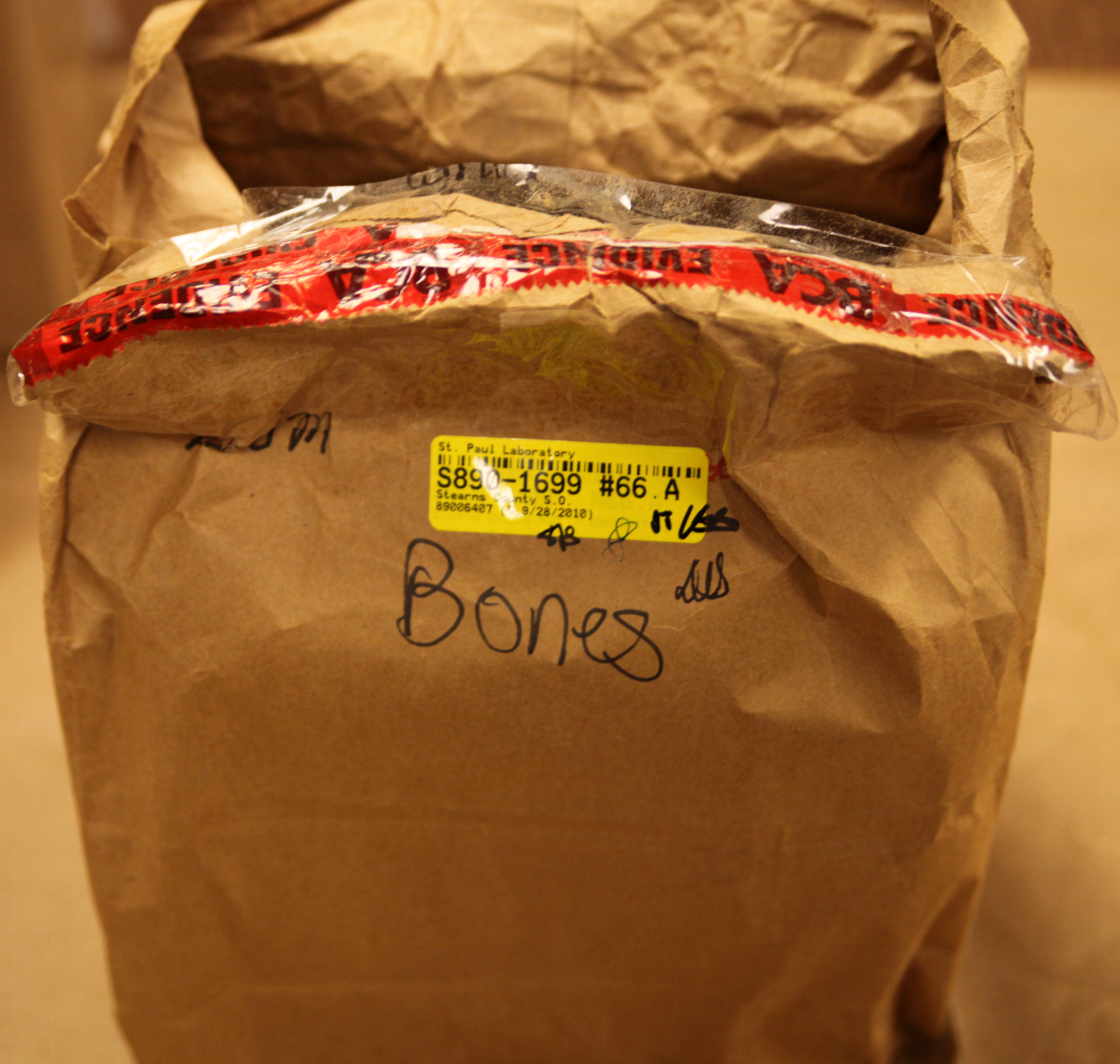
S890-1699

Stearns County S.O.
89006407 (S 10/25/1989)

Stearns County S.O.
807 Courthouse Square
Room S100
St. Cloud, MN 56302-4773

AOD

ST OF MN BCA
1430 MARYLAND AVE E
ST PAUL MN 55106
651/793-7000


BCA EVIDENCE
St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66 A
Stearns County S.O.
89006407 (9/28/2010)
Bones

Non-human

Unburned Bone

Sample/Material/Ref#

~35 pieces

66.A-5
SDS

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66.A.5
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

Non-human

Unburned Bone

Scapula/Clavicle/Ribs

~35 pieces

66.A-5

St. Paul Library
5890-1899 #66.R.5
Stearns County S.D. - 59006407



66A-15a

St. Paul Laboratory

5890-1699 #66.A.15.a

Stearns County S.O. - 89006407



Miscellaneous/Burial

~135 pieces

66A-14

88

St. Paul Laboratory
S892-1699 #66.A.14
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407
88

Non-human

Burned Bone

Miscellaneous/Unid'd

~135 pieces

66A-14

SB

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66.A.14
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407
SB

Burned Bone
Hand/Foot Bones
8 pieces
66.A.12
813

St. Paul Laboratory 88
5898-1699 #66.A.12
Stearns County S.O. - 89006487

Non-human

Burned Bone

Hand/Foot Bones

8 pieces

66A12

813

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66.A.12
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407
88

Burned bone

Vertebrae

17 pieces

66A13

80

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66.A.13
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

Non-human
Burned Bone
Vertebrae
17 pieces

66A-13
88

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66.A.13
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

7 more fragments
(burned), removed
to examine id. for
comparable id.

St. Paul Laboratory
5898-1699 #66-2.18
Stearns County S.O. - 2006467

Non-human

7 bone fragments (burned) removed to Hamline U. for comparative id.

06A-10

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66.A.10
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407





Limb Bones

~19 pieces

LBA-11

93

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 MGS A-11
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

88

Mix human

Burned Bone

Limb Bones

~ 19 pieces

66A-11

St. Paul Laboratory
S898-1699 #66.A.11
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407


Sleerna County S.O. - 886.8.9
Sleerna County Library
S898-18

Non-human

Unburned Bone

Hand/Foot

Miscellaneous/Unknown

~ 36 pieces

TC 5890 1340

5890-1699

St. Paul Laboratory
5890-1699 W66.A.2
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407



Skin




PM-2

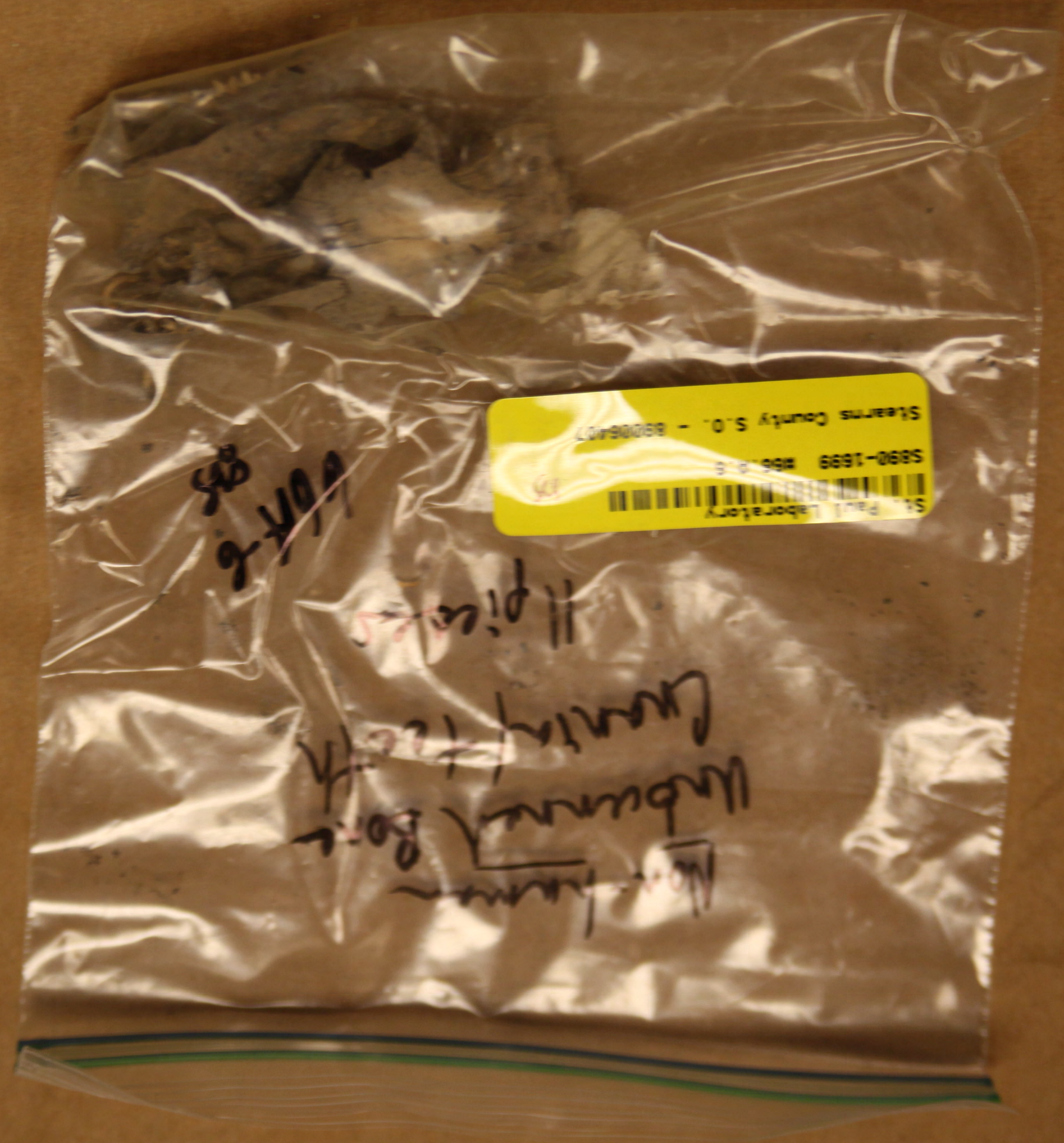
66A-4

non-human
Unburned Bone
Vertebrae

20 pieces

898

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66.A.4
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407
895


Steams Country S.O. - 85006407
S890-1899

St. Paul Laboratory
5890-1899 855.A.8
Stearns County S.O. - 89005407

Non-human

Unburned Bone

Limb Bones

~76 pieces

S890 / 99
Ap. 10th

7/23/10
C 1000
by SA
Jaeche

Hem66.A-2 885
1
885

9/22/10

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 H66.A.1
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407
88



St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 H66.A.7
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

St. Paul Laboratory
S892-1699 #66.A.7
Stearns County S.O. - 89206407

S&S
66.A.7

Not Determinable

No diagnostic
human/non-human
features
Bunnel Bone
Stearns
~250 pieces
not human

66A-15
RB

66A-15
RB

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66.A.15

Burned Bone

Stearns Co.

~250 pieces

human

St. Paul Laboratory

S890-1699 #66.A.15

Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

2 Sep. frags

S.H.T.

Sep. from Not Determinable

Stearns Co. 66A-15b
88

· not human
· burned bone
~96 fragments

2 Sept 2015

S.M.T. Myster

sep. from "Not Determinable"

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #66.A.15.b
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

Stearns Co.

· likely not human

· burned bone

↳ 12 fragments

2 Sept 2010

S.M.T. Myster

Separated from "Not determin-
able"

St. Paul Laboratory
S89-1699 #66.A.15.c
Stearns County S.O. - 89

Stearns Co.

· likely not human

· burned bone

↳ 12 fragments

2 Sept 2010

S.M.T. Mysyk

STEARNS COUNTY EVIDENCE 21074

TAG # SD

Case # 89006407	Offense
Description BCA - documentation of ~~[illegible]~~ and - newspapers - videos - emails	
Model #	Serial #
Evidence Recovered at	
Address	
Collected by Pam Jensen	POST # 8271
Date & Time collected July 1-2010	
Suspect Dan Russer	
Victim	
Evidence Room Location Basement Bulk	
Officer [illegible]	POST # 3528

CHAIN OF POSSESSION

FROM	TO	DATE	TIME
EV	Cpt Jason	11-10-10	0900
Jason	Mendota	11-15-10	0230

maxell VHS VIDEOCASSETTE

❑ SP (x1) ❑ LP (x2) ❑ EP (x3)

ristmas Angel),
ness Contest/penny sid
n takes Flight/Bess/Laura's cupes
Tion/Nat/mean/viola

St. Paul Laboratory
S890-1699 #69b
Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

maxell VIDEO CASSETTE

Little Men Chap. 9

VHS

LICENSE No. 206



St. Paul Laboratory

S890-1699 #69a

Stearns County S.O. - 89006407

T-120 VHS
3M

Professir
Videocas.

~~Glass Tape~~ CH. 11

SCHMIDT




THE WORLD'S LARGEST-CIRCULATION MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER 1999
$2.49
Reader's Digest
Streep's Secret
How the actor weaves her astonishing spells.
PAGE 86
Seat Belts: Kids at Risk
PAGE 74
Surprising Things You Can Do On-Line
PAGE 163
Full Contents on page 2
5890-1699 A.69



COURTESY JOSEPH HELMAN GALLERY, NEW YORK

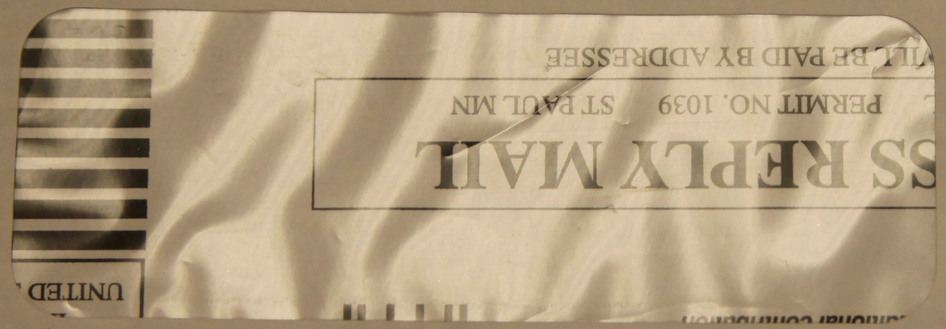
"UNTITLED"— OIL ON LINEN (40" X 48") BY AMERICAN ARTIST JOE ANDOE, 1988. READER'S DIGEST ART COLLECTION.

DRAWING ON his religious upbringing, Oklahoma-born artist Joe Andoe strives to reveal the sublime in the commonplace. Here, a solitary tulip becomes a symbol of rebirth and renewal. "All my paintings are tuned to the same frequency," says Andoe. "I stop working on a painting when it starts humming."

Received 3124109

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U.S. Postage
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MINNESOTA
SHERIFFS
ASSOCIATION

Since 1885



S890-1699 If. 69 and

from **SHERIFF**

John L. Sanner
Stearns County

Proudly Serving Minnesota Communities Since 1885

Mr. Dan A. Rassier
29748 91st Ave
Saint Joseph, MN 56374-9606

Dear Mr. Rassier:

People often ask me "What can I do to help in the fight against crime and to make my family safer?" One of the best ways is to be involved in your community. Additionally, you can help make our community safer if you become an Honorary Member of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA). Before you read any further, if your telephone rings while you are reading this letter, I assure you it won't be us calling. We **NEVER** ask anyone to join our Honorary Membership program by telephone!

Please let me tell you about the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA). We are a non-profit organization supported by memberships and donations. The Association was formed in 1885 and is one of the oldest public safety associations in the United States. We are proud to boast 100% membership of all 87 Minnesota Sheriffs as well as thousands of honorary members. A few examples of Association involvement and initiatives include scholarships for law enforcement students, participation with Sheriff's Youth Programs, supporting the national "TRIAD" program which is a partnership between seniors and law enforcement, and training law enforcement and emergency personnel on a wide variety of law enforcement topics including anti-terrorism and homeland security.

Our mission is to provide training, education, and resources for Minnesota Sheriffs and their staff, and to provide a strong statewide and national voice in public safety issues. *Sheriffs have access to resources and information during times of emergency or natural disaster, in part because of the work of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association.*

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We realize how difficult these economic times are for everyone, but please do us the honor of becoming an Honorary Member of our association. Any donation helps support our efforts. In return for your tax-deductible membership, you will receive an MSA membership card and emblem proudly declaring you are an Honorary Member. Also, you will receive copies of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association educational publication with articles often relating to ***YOUR SHERIFF'S OFFICE*** and other state and national public safety agencies.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND BE A PART OF A RICH TRADITION.

Become a partner with the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association. We ask for your support in our efforts to make Minnesota, and your community, a safer place to live and raise our families.

Sincerely,

John L. Sanner

John L. Sanner, Sheriff, Stearns County

We respect your privacy and DO NOT sell, rent or exchange our membership list or solicit by phone... this is the ONLY notice of this offer you will receive!

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Sheriff John L. Sanner
Minnesota Sheriffs' Association
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St. Cloud Times

20 YEARS OF SEARCHING FOR JACOB WETTERLING

ENDURING HOPE

FAMILY FRIENDS INTERROGATIONS RELIVE ON THE NIGHT THE 11-YEAR-OLD WAS KIDNAPPED



Times photo by Adam Hammer, ahammer@stcloudtimes.com

Patty Wetterling takes a moment to reflect on the 20th anniversary of the abduction of her son, Jacob, during an interview Oct. 9 at her St. Joseph home. Behind her is a wooden train with the familiar Jacob's Hope slogan.

A masked man stood in Jacob's room at 10:45 p.m. on the night of the kidnapping.

He has a gun.

He tells them to get off their bikes and to lay down in the ditch. He threatens to shoot if they don't follow directions.

Then the man goes down the line and asks each of them their ages. Trevor Wetterling is 16. Aaron Larson and Jacob Wetterling are 11.

The man tells Trevor to run away into the woods. Then he tells Aaron to do the same.

They do as they're told.

When they look back, the man and Jacob are gone.

•

It's been 20 years since Jacob Wetterling was last seen by his friend and his brother on that dark road.

What happened that night touched a community. It changed laws and how families live, and it continues to haunt Jacob's family and friends.

The St. Cloud Times revisited the case and talked to the people directly involved in it. Most cold cases fade from memory and the enthusiasm to solve them diminishes. But a common theme of undying hope ran through the interviews.

"After 20 years, you would think it would lose its traction," Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner said. "Not this case. I'm not about to say we give up."

'Jacob's Hope' still alive in their hearts

FAMILY HAS CHANNELED GRIEF INTO EFFORTS TO HELP FIND OTHER MISSING KIDS.

By David Unze
dunze@stcloudtimes.com

ST. JOSEPH — There's only one road connecting the rest of the world to the quiet cul-de-sac Jerry and Patty Wetterling call home.

In an area that has seen surrounding land gobbled up by development, 91st Avenue Southeast cuts through farm fields as it approaches the Wetterling residence.

It still looks a lot like it did 20 years ago, the night 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling was abducted at the spot where a neighbor's driveway meets that road.

See WETTERLING, 9A ►

LARSON KEPT WAITING FOR HIS FRIEND TO COME HOME. HE STILL HOPES FOR A HAPPY ENDING.

Moving forward

By Kari Petrie
kpetrie@stcloudtimes.com

SLAYTON — In the Wetterling living room on the night of Oct. 22, 1989, 11-year-old Aaron Larson kept waiting for Jacob Wetterling to come home.

He watched through the picture window every time a squad car pulled up and an officer got out.



Times photo by Adam Hammer, ahammer@stcloudtimes.com
Aaron Larson

"I just remember looking out that window and thinking 'OK, he's going

See LARSON, 7A ►

MORE INSIDE, ONLINE

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Watch interviews, see suspect sketches and view an interactive map of the abduction site. Listen to the neighbor's 911 call, view an expanded timeline and talk about the case on a public forum.

Hearing set for garbage hauler

Officials will view bonding projects

By Kirsti Marohn
kmarohn@stcloudtimes.com

A group of lawmakers will visit Central Minnesota this week to get a closer look at proposed projects vying for state bonding dollars.

The House Capital Investment Committee will stop in St. Cloud on Tuesday as part of a three-day swing across the state.

The committee, led by Chairwoman Alice Hausman, a St. Paul DFLer, is charged with drafting a borrowing bill for construction projects across the state. The wish list of next year's package has a price tag of $2.6 billion.

The Legislature typically crafts bonding bills during even-numbered years. Next year's bill is expected to be closely watched as a tool to stimulate job growth and economic recovery in Minnesota.

Other cities on the tour include Elk River, Princeton, Willmar, St. Peter and Mankato.

See BONDING, 2A ►

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OFFICIAL LAUNCH: Maureen Reed celebrates the opening of campaign headquarters. **1B**

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Deaths Page 2B.

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- Patricia L. Hubert, 68, Waite Park, formerly of Princeton
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20 YEARS OF SEARCHING FOR JACOB WETTERLING



Before the kidnapping.



Digitally aged to 19.



Digitally aged to 29.

ENDURING HOPE

FAMILY, FRIENDS, INVESTIGATORS REFLECT ON THE NIGHT THE 11-YEAR-OLD WAS KIDNAPPED

By Kari Petrie
kpetrie@stcloudtimes.com

ST. JOSEPH — The night of Oct. 22, 1989, was cool and would become very dark.

Three boys decide to go rent a movie at a nearby Tom Thumb store. Two of them hop on their bikes and a third gets on a scooter to make the trip along the quiet country road.

They settle on a movie and set out for home.

It's dark, but they have a flashlight to help them see. They are wearing reflective clothing so vehicles can see them.

But they are not alone.

A masked man dressed in black comes out of the night.



Hearing set for garbage hauler

Complaints claim trash, recyclables were mixed together

By Kirsti Marohn
kmarohn@stcloudtimes.com

A Melrose garbage-hauling company could lose its license to operate in Stearns County after county staff say they caught a truck with recyclable items and trash mixed together.

Affordable Disposal and Recycling, owned by Chad Boeckers, has had a license and contract for collecting and transporting solid waste in the county since January 2007. The county board will consider whether to revoke or suspend both as a public hearing [illegible]

Officials will vie

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Inside

Advice	15B	Books	2C	Life	1C	Movies	2A
Births	3B	Classified	16A	Learning	4B	Nation&World	3A
		Crossword	14B	Local	1B	Opinion	16B
		Inspiration	9C	Lottery	1B	Outdoors	10D
						Sports	1D
						Travel	6C
						Trends	8C
						Your money	15A

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Ten years later abduction of Jacob Wetterling still grips St. Joseph and the investigators in the case

Richard Meryhew; Staff Writer
Star Tribune
Published 10/22/1999

Ten years ago tonight, Charlie Grafft was sitting in front of his TV set, waiting for the start of the 10 o'clock news, when his pager went off.

The Stearns County sheriff called his office and got the grim news: A boy was missing. Out by St. Joseph. Taken by a masked man with a gun.

Grafft hustled to his car and sped the 4 miles from his house to 91st Avenue in St. Joseph. He hoped it was a prank but feared the worst.

"When I looked at the bikes laying in the ditch and the scooter, the way they were laying there kind of struck a chord in me," Grafft said the other day, recalling the night 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling was abducted on his way home from the Tom Thumb store in St. Joseph.

Grafft, who retired as sheriff in January 1991 without having been able to solve the case, still wonders what happened that night and what became of Jacob.

"In the back of my mind, it still bothers me," he said. "I don't think I'll ever forget it."

Few of the investigators who have worked the case can.

"You have to be professional and keep your emotions in check," said Doug Pearce, the Stearns County chief deputy who was the investigator on call that night. "But in a sense, it's tearing at our guts. There are agents and detectives who have worked extremely hard on it and given their heart and soul to this case. And it's something we're never going to give up on."

Jacob, his brother Trevor, 10, and best friend Aaron Larson, 11, took off from the Wetterlings' house about 9 p.m. on Oct. 22, 1989, to pick up a video at Tom Thumb, about a mile away.

Two of the boys were on bikes; the third took a scooter.

On the trip home, a man appeared on the gravel road about a quarter-mile from the Wetter-lings' house, ordered the boys to drop to the ground, looked at each boy, asked their ages, then freed Trevor and Aaron, telling them to run and not to look back or he'd shoot. When they finally looked back, Jacob was gone.

Investigators and volunteers searched the countryside in and around St. Joseph, looking for any sign of Jacob. Ten years and nearly 28,000 leads later, investigators are no closer to solving the crime.

"We talk about it every day," said Stearns County Sheriff Jim Kostreba, who was the chief deputy under Grafft when Wetterling disappeared.

S390-1699 Jt.69 SmT

Dave Nohner, a detective with the Sheriff's Office, spends about one-third of his time working the case, checking out the 12 to 15 leads a month that come in. When Nohner gets a tip, he assigns it a number and enters the information into a computer. If a lead needs to be passed on to the state's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension or the FBI, it is.

Over the years, investigators have cleared nearly 4,000 suspects and questioned thousands more. They've consulted psychics and checked out sightings of Jacob look-alikes and explored dozens of theories. Leads have taken investigators to nearly every state and as far away as Asia and Europe, Pearce said.

False alarms, hoaxes and even "I'm Jacob" phone calls get checked, too.

One of the eeriest calls came several years ago, when someone claiming to be Jacob called the Jacob Wetterling Foundation office in St. Joseph at 3:13 a.m.

That morning, Patty Wetter-ling dreamed that her son was trying to phone home. She said she saw Jacob and the image of his abductor in her dream, but couldn't make out the abductor's face. Startled, she woke and looked at the clock. It was 3:11 a.m.

Authorities traced the call to a pay phone near a shipping business in New York City. "We did as much as we could in trying to find who made the call," Nohner said. "But we were never able to establish who placed it because it was made on a pay phone."

.

Lots of theories

So who was it that intercepted the boys that night and how did he get there?

Much of the investigation so far has centered on the belief that Jacob was snatched by a pedophile. In the months following the abduction, investigators identified nearly 300 convicted sex offenders in the four-county area surrounding St. Joseph.

One theory is that the abductor stalked Jacob and was in the neighborhood when the boys left for the Tom Thumb. Another, cited by Neil Neddermeyer, a retired Hennepin County detective who worked the case for five months, is that it was "a crime of opportunity probably led on by a fantasy in the back of the abductor's mind."

The man asked their ages, not their names, Neddermeyer said, "and therein lies my belief that Jacob was not being stalked. I believe he was looking for a boy of a specific age. I think he saw an opportunity to scare the hell out of the kids or play with them and got into the position to do it."

Early on, investigators checked out the possibility that the abduction was a hate crime that was somehow connected to Jerry Wetterling's work with the local chapter of the NAACP. They also wondered if someone at the Tom Thumb store had seen the boys and had gotten out in front of them as they made their way home. Trevor and Aaron said that they never saw a car pass them. Nevertheless, people at the store told investigators about an "older person" who was there.

Nohner said authorities also have checked on reports of a person acting suspiciously earlier in the day at a convenience store in a neighboring town, and a case of an unidentified man in nearby Cold Spring.

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Minn., who abducted, molested and released a boy nine months earlier.

That case was never solved.

It's possible, too, that Jacob's abductor wasn't from the area, but stumbled onto the boys after exiting Interstate Hwy. 94, only a mile or so away, and stopping at the Tom Thumb.

Yet without a strong description of the suspect - it was dark and the man had a mask - or much physical evidence, authorities can't rule out anything. They found a tire print on a driveway leading from the road, Grafft said, "but nothing that really, really helped us."

"Every time we sit down to discuss the case, different ideas come up, different things come up," Kostreba said. "I'm more inclined to believe the theory that he's not far away. But when leads come in or information comes in that tend to show he may be further away, we check those, too."

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A terrible mystery

The longer the case goes unsolved, the tougher it gets. Nohner said some suspects or others questioned by investigators have since died, raising the possibility that critical information may be lost forever.

Over the years, Pearce said, the FBI has had experts "come in and pick it apart and try to help us get anything we may have missed."

Nohner said there are a "handful of people who certainly had the potential and ability to do the crime. But we're not able to eliminate them because of circumstance. We can't say they didn't do it. So they remain suspects."

Grafft sometimes wonders whether the aggressive push by authorities early on - hundreds of officers, National Guard troops and volunteers searched the area on foot, on horseback and in helicopters - didn't push the kidnapper from the area.

But, he said, what else could they do?

"I could never say that you push too hard on a case like this," Kostreba said. "The proven facts are, the quicker you can get it solved, the better your chances are. After 72 hours, your chances drop off real quick."

They still push.

Statistics on stranger abductions suggest that, after all this time, Jacob probably isn't alive and may never be found. Yet authorities, like the Wetterlings, hold out hope.

On the window of the Stearns County law-enforcement center is a poster with Jacob's picture and the words "Find Jacob Wetterling." A flag with the words "Jacob's Hope" stands in the lobby.

In Grafft's garage office at his home in nearby Waite Park, a white ribbon with the word "hope" is tied to an old railroad lamp. Every month or so, he calls Patty and Jerry Wetterling "just to let 'em know I'm still interested."

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Kostreba talks with the Wetterlings as often as three or four times a week. If the family leaves the area, he knows how to get ahold of them if there's a break in the case.

Neddermeyer, who retired from Hennepin County in January, thinks about it often, too.

Of all the child victim crimes he's worked, the Wetterling case "is the one I can't get out of my mind," he said. "Because there are degrees of proof where cops really know they have the right guy and also know they don't have the evidence to prove it.

"In this particular case, we don't know who did it. And that's what's so frustrating. To not really know makes the whole thing a terrible mystery."

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- Anyone with information about the case is asked to call 1-320-251-4240.

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- Staff writer Richard Meryhew can be reached at richm@startribune.com.

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More information:

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Resources

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- Jacob Wetterling Foundation:

1-320-363-0470

http://www.jwf.org.

- National Center for Missing

and Exploited Children:

1-800-THE-LOST

http://missingkids.org.

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Wetterling investigators reviewing monks' records

Richard Meryhew
Star Tribune
Published 05/11/2002

Authorities investigating the 1989 abduction of Jacob Wetterling are reviewing records of 11 monks under restrictions at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minn.

The monks' activities have been restricted because of allegations or admissions of sexual abuse.

Stearns County Sheriff Jim Kostreba said Friday that he and Chief Deputy Doug Pearce met with St. John's Abbot John Klassen last week asking to review the records as part of investigations into two unsolved cases.

One is the stabbing deaths of sisters Mary Reker, 15, and Susanne Reker, 12, whose bodies were found in an abandoned gravel quarry west of St. Cloud on Sept. 28, 1974, 26 days after they disappeared while shopping for school supplies.

The other is the October 1989 abduction of Wetterling, who lived in nearby St. Joseph and was 11 at the time he disappeared. He has not been seen since.

Kostreba said he did not discuss details of the cases with Klassen, who provided authorities with the information they requested.

"We didn't focus on specific cases . . . but there are two of them we have interest in," the sheriff said.

"Reker and Wetterling?" the sheriff said. "Obviously we're interested in both of them."

Kostreba said that over the years investigators have followed up on leads or tips involving some of the monks. But he said this week that national attention to sexual abuse by priests led his department to take a new look at the cases.

He said authorities are reviewing the records of the 11 monks "to see if it will develop into leads."

Pearce said agents from the FBI, the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and Stearns County are reviewing the records.

"For those of us working the case, there's nothing new other than it's another lead," said Patty Wetterling, Jacob's mother. "The FBI was there right from the beginning. It's not like it's all brand new. It's just one more look at something we knew something about. It's good that they're checking on everything. It's good to look again."

Said Pearce, who was on duty the night Jacob was abducted: "Like all leads, we have to check them out very thoroughly. Certainly, any information we obtain from the church or any business on any suspects is very important. The more cooperation we get from an organization, the more thorough we can be."

Jacob, his brother Trevor, 10, and best friend Aaron Larson, 11, took off from the Wetterlings' house in St. Joseph about 9 p.m. on Oct. 22, 1989, to pick up a video at a Tom Thumb store, about a mile away.

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Two of the boys were on bikes; the third took a scooter.

On the trip home, a man appeared on the gravel road about a quarter-mile from the Wetterlings' house, ordered the boys to drop to the ground, looked at each boy, asked their ages, then freed Trevor and Aaron, telling them to run and not look back. The man threatened to shoot the boys if they looked. When the boys finally looked back, Jacob was gone.

Over the next several weeks, investigators and volunteers searched the countryside in and around St. Joseph, looking for any sign of Jacob.

Over the past 12 1/2 years, investigators have followed up on nearly 30,000 leads and cleared nearly 4,000 suspects. They've consulted psychics and checked out sightings of Jacob look-alikes and explored dozens of theories. Leads have taken investigators to nearly every state and around the world, Pearce said.

He said that, on average, investigators still get two or three new tips a week on the case.

-- Richard Meryhew is at richm@startribune.com .

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New theory in kidnap case

Pat Doyle And Richard Meryhew
Star Tribune
Published 02/25/2004

A new twist in the unsolved abduction of Jacob Wetterling has prompted authorities to focus on the possibility that the masked gunman who snatched the 11-year-old boy in October 1989 was on foot and not in a vehicle, as many had believed.

Authorities recently have been investigating whether a suspicious tire track found near the abduction scene was left by a curious motorist who drove by the scene after hearing reports of the kidnapping on a police scanner. A man claiming to be that motorist has come forward after he had a casual conversation with someone in law enforcement, authorities said Tuesday.

His story appears to offer an innocent explanation for the tire track, which some investigators had focused on for years as possible evidence that the abductor had been driving.

"The new information gives us an opportunity to look at things in a different way," said Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner. "We're now focused on a very real possibility that our abductor was on foot."



Jacob Wetterling: 1989 and age-progressed to 2004

That information prompted authorities this month to search at least one home near the scene.

They questioned a man and obtained DNA samples from him, a relative of the man said. The relative also said the man received an envelope with the return address of the Stearns County Sheriff's Office. The envelope included a handwritten letter signed by Jacob's mother, Patty Wetterling. It implored anyone with information about Jacob's disappearance to come forward.

Despite the new developments, Patty Wetterling said Tuesday that she's not ready to dismiss the theory that her son's abductor left in a vehicle.

"For 14½ years we've been focusing on a car," she said. "So I'm not willing to throw the whole deal out."

In the years since the abduction, police have issued alerts for a variety of cars, but they failed to lead to a prime suspect. Investigators pursued more than 28,000 leads and questioned hundreds of people in a nationwide dragnet.

The man who has recently become a focus of police inquiry called authorities the night of the abduction to report a suspicious car turning around in his driveway, the relative said. Authorities have not called the man a suspect. The relative said the man is innocent, adding, "He just wouldn't do something like that. I don't think there is a chance in the world that he did it."

The Star Tribune is not naming the man because he has not been charged with any crime.

The motorist who had been at the location of the abduction in 1989 said in an interview Tuesday that he

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stepped forward last fall after talking to a U.S. marshal who was a friend of a friend. "He thought it would be a good idea that I talk to someone -- he thought there was some information I had that might be helpful," said the man, who asked to be identified only as Kevin, saying he feared for his family's safety.

The motorist said that on the night of the kidnapping he drove his car near the abduction site, where the boys' bikes were lying on the ground. He mentioned the bikes to a nearby St. Joseph police officer, but Sanner said Thursday that he could find no record that he had ever been interviewed.

The motorist said Stearns County investigators interviewed him after he came forward. He said they asked about the man who has become the focus of the inquiry. The motorist said he told investigators he didn't know him, and that investigators did not "tell me anything about who's a suspect or not."

The Wetterling abduction remains one of the most notorious and mysterious kidnappings in the nation. Jacob, his brother Trevor, 10, and friend Aaron Larson, 11, took off from the Wetterlings' house on Oct. 22, 1989, to pick up a video at a Tom Thumb store, about a mile away. Two of the boys were on bikes, the third took a scooter.

They returned on a rural township road after renting a movie. A masked man with a gun approached the boys and ordered them off their bikes. He looked at each boy and asked their ages, and they answered. The gunman then told Trevor and Aaron to run and not look back or he'd shoot. They ran, and when they finally looked back, Jacob was gone.

In the week after the kidnapping, hundreds of police and volunteers searched on foot through St. Joseph Township for any sign of the boy. Within a month of the abduction, federal, state and local investigators interviewed and cleared 525 potential suspects.

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St. Joseph boy, 11, kidnapped at gunpoint

Pat Doyle; Staff Writer
Star Tribune
Published 10/24/1989

A bloodhound, helicopter pilots and scores of college students and firefighters searched cornfields and woods Monday for 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling, who authorities said was abducted at gunpoint Sunday by a masked man on a rural township road.

The athlete and A-student was snatched as he and his younger brother and a friend were returning from a convenience store on their bicycles at about 9:15 p.m. Sunday, said Stearns County Sheriff Charlie Grafft.

No ransom demands have been received and authorities said they knew of no motive for the abduction and had no suspects. "It could be kidnapping for ransom, could be sex," Grafft said. "We don't know. He could be in the next state by now."

Said Dr. Jerry Wetterling, 41, Jacob's father, "I've never received any threats." Wetterling, a local chiropractor and president of the St. Cloud chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), said it was impossible his son's disappearance was a prank. "They are really honest boys," he said.

Grafft said an account of the abduction provided by Jacob's brother, Trevor, 10, is credible and authorities assume the boy has been kidnapped. Trevor said that he, Jacob, and Aaron Larson, 11, were returning on bicycles from a convenience store a mile from home where they had rented a videotaped movie. The area is about 5 miles west of St. Cloud.

They were about halfway home when a man wearing dark clothing, black boots and carrying a pistol walked out of a long gravel driveway leading to a farm.

"He had a mask; it looked like pantyhose, on his head," Trevor said. "He told us to get off our bikes or he'd shoot. We did what he said. We laid in a ditch and he asked our ages."

After the boys told their ages, "He looked at Aaron's face and he told me to run to the woods as fast as I could," Trevor said.

Said Aaron, "He told me to run, too, or else he'd shoot."

Just before they began running, "We saw him grab him (Jacob) by the arm," Trevor said. Several minutes later, he said, they looked around, but Jacob and the masked man were gone.

Trevor said several cars passed the trio on their way to the store but no vehicles passed them as they rode their bicycles back toward home. He said they heard rustling in the weeds along the road at one point but thought nothing unusual. Trevor and Aaron said they didn't hear or see a vehicle, but a person who lives nearby told police he heard tires squealing at about 9 p.m.

"I have a very sick feeling there was a car and he was taken away," Jerry Wetterling said.

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The FBI has joined the investigation. Volunteers, including students from the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph and St. John's University in Collegeville, distributed posters of the youth to stores, gas stations and other locations in the area.

"We got a telephone call saying show up here at 5 o'clock to help look for a boy who has been abducted," said Kazimer Gazdzik, a sophomore at St. John's University and a member of the Alpha Kappa Sigma fraternity, which sent a search crew of 50 students.

Phone lines to the Stearns County Sheriff's Department were jammed with calls from volunteers offering to help search. "People call and say, `I've got a full tank of gas; I'd like to help,' " a dispatcher said. "The response has been overwhelming."

In the Wetterling household, the uncertainty and fear were taking a toll yesterday.

Jacob's mother, Patty, 39, wept when searchers showed her a poster with her son's picture and the words "Missing, Abducted."

"I just don't understand this," she said. "My worst fear is that some professional child abductor came in here looking for an 11-year-old good-looking kid. My biggest fear is they drove all night and now he's gone."

"He's such a smart kid," she said of her missing son, a sixth-grader at North Community School in St. Cloud, active in soccer, hockey and basketball and learning to play the trombone. "I keep thinking he'll figure something out. It's just so unbelievable."

Jerry Wetterling said, "I don't think it was anyone targeting our family. He didn't ask the kids' names, only ages."

The incident has left neighborhood children frightened about venturing out at night on the outskirts of a small town they assumed was safe. "Just yesterday I said I wouldn't worry about walking in the dark because nothing could happen here," said Holli Eickhoff, 13.

Police were tracking down several sex offenders recently released from the St. Cloud reformatory, and were checking reports of a suspicious maroon station wagon seen recently in the area.

The Wetterling parents were attending a party in St. Joseph Sunday night when Trevor called and asked if he, Jacob and Aaron Larson could ride their bicycles to the convenience store. Patty insisted they not be gone long, and told them to get a neighbor girl to baby sit for their younger sister.

Jacob Wetterling is the second oldest of four Wetterling children. He is 5 feet tall, 75 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes and a mole on his left cheek. He was wearing a red hockey jacket with an orange vest, blue sweatpants and high-top tennis shoes.

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Patty Wetterling's letter to abductor

Star Tribune
Published 10/23/1998

To the man who took Jacob,

I often wonder, does October 22 mean anything to you? Do you remember the young boy you took from us? Do you still have him with you? He's an adult now, but just as loved and still dearly missed. Do you know the person you took?

Jacob was born February 17, 1978. He has his Grandpa's middle name. He loved sports and was incredibly competitive, especially with his younger brother Trevor. They played, and they'd fight and then they'd fall asleep, each with one arm wrapped around the other. He fished with his Dad, and he had lots of friends. He was most known for his sense of fairness. Even if it had nothing to do with him it always bothered him when things weren't fair.

He tried hard at whatever he did. He was goalie for his hockey team. I remember asking him, did it ever bother him when somebody scored on him? He said not really. If I stopped it, it was a great save. If it went in, it was a great shot!

You took away a wonderful person. Someone who probably would have stood up for you if things weren't fair. Did no one do nice things for you?

I have found some comfort picturing you not as a mean old ugly bad guy, but at one time, you were an 11-year-old boy. Someone's son . . . possibly someone's brother, needing and hopefully sharing the love an 11-year-old boy deserves. If this love wasn't shared in your family, I'm sorry. Every child is entitled to the love and caring that family and friends provide.

If you still have Jacob, I wish for something good to happen to you, like catching a really big fish. Hopefully then, you will treat him well. I hope you have peaceful moments where you can walk in the woods or on a beach, content, not miserable and vindictive.

I have a hard time getting through anniversary dates. Still not knowing where Jacob is, I continue to talk to him. Birthdays, holidays, but especially now. Where are you, Jacob? What next? I talk to God, praying for Jacob, and even struggling with trying to pray for you.

If only I could talk to you.

I'm not sure what I would say, although after so much time, surprisingly, I don't hate you. I know nothing about you. I wonder, were you ever like Jacob? Did you also love peanut butter? Did you sneeze when you looked at the sun? Did you play jokes on April Fools' Day? Jacob is not just a kid on a poster. His mom and dad, Amy, Carmen and Trevor miss him daily. He has dreams and hopes and potential.

I still have positive dreams. For my own survival, I have had to let go of a lot of anger or I would be swallowed up in it. But the questions persist. I pray that God will smile down on us all this year and bring us some peace. All I'm asking for is your response, a call to allow me and all the people whose lives Jacob touched to find peace and a sense of calm that disappeared that night in 1989. The peace that can't return until the questions surrounding Jacob's disappearance are answered. You have held the

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answers for so long. You also hold the pain. Please talk to me. - Written by Patty Wetterling, mother of Jacob Wetterling, who was abducted nine years ago. - If you have information in the Wetterling case, call the Stearns County Sheriff's Department, 1-320-251-4240; the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), 651-642-0610, or the FBI, 612-376-3200.

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Close window

Officials seek 100 potential suspects in hunt for St. Joseph boy's abductor

Pat Doyle; Staff Writer
Star Tribune
Published 10/25/1989

Police searching for 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling were tracking down 100 potential suspects Tuesday in hopes of finding a man who abducted him at gunpoint Sunday, and they sought a red Chevette reportedly seen in the vicinity.

Authorities said yesterday that it's likely the abductor stalked Jacob, his younger brother and a friend as they rode their bicycles home from a convenience store at night.

Investigators focused their attention on tracking and interviewing potential suspects yesterday after a comprehensive search of a 20-square-mile area by scores of volunteers failed to yield any sign of Jacob.

A specialist from the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension began developing a psychological profile of an abductor based partly on interviews with Jacob's brother, Trevor, 10, and his friend, Aaron Larson, 11.

Last night investigators began looking for a red Chevette, which was seen recently by at least 10 people near a Tom Thumb convenience store where the boys shopped or on the township road where they were bicycling.

"We kept hearing about this red vehicle parking in front of the Del-Win Ballroom," said Jim Kostreba, chief deputy of Stearns County. The ballroom is about 50 yards from the convenience store.

"No one seems to know who it belongs to," Kostreba said. "It's been seen there over the last three weeks by different people and it's similar to the description of the vehicle that was seen on (the township road) Sunday night."

The sightings of the red Chevette strengthened a police theory that the abductor had been watching the boys for some time and followed them from the store. Trevor Wetterling and Larson said they were about a mile from home when a masked gunman walked out of a farm driveway and ordered them off their bikes. He asked them their ages, told Trevor and Larson to run, and grabbed Jacob.

"It's difficult to say that someone just happened to be in that area at the time," Kostreba said. "It's a fairly remote area and it's not traveled by everybody. . . . You'd have to say the person followed the three boys from somewhere."

Authorities said they have no license number for the car.

During the past two days authorities identified four men as suspects, but later eliminated them after confirming alibis."These are people who were around the area or were involved in different types of crime," said Stearns County Sheriff Charlie Grafft.

At least three of them had records for sex offenses and were released within the past six months from

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correctional facilities or treatment programs, he said. The list of 100 potential suspects was compiled from 300 phone tips, interviews with the Wetterling family and friends, parole records and other sources, authorities said. It appears increasingly likely that Jacob was taken from the area. "There is always the possibility that he is locked in the basement of some house and we haven't found him yet, but we don't believe so," Kostreba said.

As the investigation continued yesterday, the Wetterling residence received hundreds of phone calls and dozens of crayon drawings by classmates of Jacob's second-grade sister, Carmen.

Many callers told Jacob's mother, Patty, 39, about suspicious cars they had seen. Two people told of dreams they had in which Jacob was alive but held captive. "We sit here - there is absolutely nothing we can do," Patty Wetterling said.

"Everyone keeps saying, `Have you thought about the possibility that . . .' and I say `shut up.' I can only allow myself to think he's coming home. Otherwise it hurts too bad."

Neither Patty nor Dr. Jerry Wetterling, 41, Jacob's father, have received ransom calls or believe they are targets. "We'd give whatever they want," said Patty Wetterling. "Money is not the issue. I think it's an irrational person. I have too much faith in mankind to think a normal person would tear a family apart like this.

"You can't go through life preparing your children for the absolute worst that can happen or you could never live your life," she said. "We prepared him to be smart, be kind, be considerate, use your head. He knew about strangers coming up to him on the street."

At Kennedy Elementary School, Jacob's sister, Carmen, participated in a class card-making exercise. "I feel sad because I am missing a brother and his name is Jacob," she wrote. "Trevor and Aaron are OK. But the man with the mask took Jacob away and no one can find him. He was kidnapped by someone and we don't know who."

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From the start, Wetterling case drew range of tips

Pat Doyle And Richard Meryhew
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Published 02/29/2004

The kidnapper drove a red Chevette. Or maybe it was a white Chevrolet. Or a brown van.

There were no suspects. There were lots of suspects.

Police circulated sketches of a burly middle-aged man who was seen near the abduction. They also released a sketch of a younger man.

From the beginning, the investigation into the 1989 abduction of Jacob Wetterling, 11, of St. Joseph, Minn., has been a searchlight scanning the horizon, pausing occasionally to focus in one direction or another.

The latest twist came last week, when authorities announced that they had new information indicating that the abductor may not have used a vehicle after all. If so, he probably lived or stayed within easy walking distance of the abduction.

"No doubt this new piece of information has renewed interest in the case ... blown new investigative life into it," said Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner. "We've got something fresh."

Sanner said the investigation has been "refocused to examine potential local suspects" who could have abducted Jacob without a vehicle. All of the people subjected to the new scrutiny have been identified for years as potential suspects but never cleared.

In the days and weeks after the abduction, authorities conducted extensive interviews with neighbors of the Wetterlings. But they also spent much of their time looking elsewhere in Minnesota and the nation on the theory that an abductor from outside the area might have driven off with the boy.

"This case received national attention so quickly and to such a great extent that calls were coming in from all over the country about possible sightings and descriptions of vehicles and matches on the descriptions of vehicles with suspects," said Jim Kostreba, a former Stearns County sheriff who played a major role in the investigation. "We couldn't dismiss them. So there's a lot of jumping around to different areas of the country."

Kostreba said investigators from the FBI, Stearns County and the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension were justified in pursuing a theory that the abductor used a vehicle because ramps to Interstate Hwy. 94 are a couple of miles from the Wetterling home, and the boy had visited a convenience store along another highway shortly before he was abducted.

"But it took up valuable time and resources, there is no question about that," Kostreba said.

The new information casts doubt on evidence that the abductor used a vehicle that left tire tracks at the scene. Investigators had long regarded the tracks as significant because they appeared near small footprints on a driveway off the township road near where the abduction occurred.

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But last fall a man reported that he had driven to the abduction scene the night of the kidnapping after hearing police activity on a scanner. He said he came forward recently after having a casual conversation with someone in law enforcement.

Investigators don't consider the man a suspect and say his account offers an innocent explanation for the tire tracks. An abduction without a vehicle would increase the likelihood that the kidnapper lived nearby.

Start at the center

Dennis Sigafoos was an agent for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension assigned to the case in 1989.

"My deal has always been, start in the neighborhood and stay in the neighborhood ... unless something takes you out of the neighborhood," said Sigafoos, now retired. "If there was no car, then obviously we should have been in there even harder ... maybe a hell of a lot more could have been done. But I can assure you we talked to people and talked to people and talked to people. In my heart, I believe we did both equally well -- inside the neighborhood and outside."

But about a week after the abduction, most of the leads were taking investigators outside the area, Sigafoos said. Massive media coverage "brought in leads from all over, and it seemed we spent an awful lot of time following up leads outside the area that really weren't worth following up. And we should have been back in that home area until something positively took us outside of it."

FBI Special Agent Paul McCabe also worked the Wetterling case and said there was a heavy emphasis on pursuing local leads.

"In all of these investigations you kind of start at the center and work out," McCabe said. "That's kind of how the investigation was done at that time. You start at the core and just keep going out and out and out, until we had the whole county covered, and then we kept going from there."

He said investigators continued to follow local leads even as they pursued angles that took them outside the Wetterling neighborhood.

"As you're pushing your way out, all of a sudden a new lead might take you back in," McCabe said. "The main thing is no one wants to get tunnel vision. You keep all of your options open."

Al Garber, a former FBI agent who supervised the Wetterling investigation, did not respond this week to questions about the case.

Sketches, tire tracks

During the first few months after the abduction, leads surfaced suddenly, only to quickly fade in importance.

The FBI released a sketch of an unidentified man it believed kidnapped Jacob and molested a 12-year-old boy from Cold Spring, Minn. The burly white man was reportedly wearing military-style fatigues and a baseball cap. The sketch was circulated throughout the nation. Investigators later downplayed its significance.

Within days of the abduction, investigators were tracking 100 potential suspects and looking for a red

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Chevette seen near the Tom Thumb convenience store where Jacob, his brother Trevor, 10, and friend Aaron Larson, 11, went to rent a video on Oct. 22, 1989.

They were approached by a masked gunman at about 9:15 p.m. as they returned home on a township road. He asked the boys their ages and then told Trevor and Aaron to run and not look back or he'd shoot. They ran, and when they finally looked back, Jacob was gone.

Aaron and Trevor didn't report seeing or hearing a suspicious vehicle at the site of the abduction. But Kostreba said the boys were running from an abduction and may not have been looking or listening for a vehicle.

Kostreba continues to believe there was a vehicle, saying it would have been very hard for an abductor to disappear so quickly with an 11-year-old boy without one. He says the innocent explanation for the tire track in the driveway doesn't rule out that another vehicle was used in the kidnapping and that the abductor was a local person.

Whether a vehicle was used, Kostreba is skeptical of the theory that the abduction was committed by someone from outside the region.

"My personal feeling is that it's always a little bit closer to home," he said.

The writers are at pdoyle@startribune.com and richm@startribune.com.

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A renewed plea to find Jacob

Jill Burcum and Richard Meryhew
Star Tribune
Published 02/26/2004

ST. JOSEPH, MINN -- After more than 14 years of frustration, Patty Wetterling reacted with caution and weary optimism Wednesday to a new development in the abduction of her 11-year-old son Jacob.

Wetterling and her husband, Jerry, met with Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner for about an hour at the office of the foundation named for Jacob, who was abducted near their home in 1989.

She said the latest development suggests that someone living near the abduction site took Jacob, giving less credence to previous theories that someone in a car had driven off with him.

Wetterling called the development "significant" and said authorities "have reason to apply pressure, but not too much pressure" to a local man who has been interviewed by investigators.

The Wetterling abduction, which occurred Oct. 22, 1989, on a quiet rural road, became a national cause. Jacob, his brother Trevor, 10, and his best friend, Aaron Larson, 11, took off from the Wetterlings' house to pick up a video at a Tom Thumb, about a mile away. Two of the boys were on bikes; the third took a scooter.

They returned on a rural township road after renting a movie at the convenience store.



Patty Wetterling speaks with media.
Richard Sennott
Star Tribune

A masked man with a gun stepped out from a gravel road and ordered the boys off their bikes. He told Trevor and Aaron to run and to not look back or he would shoot. They ran, and when they finally looked back, Jacob was gone.



Patty Wetterling
Richard Sennott
Star Tribune

Authorities had been unable to dismiss the possibility that the abductor drove a vehicle because of tire tracks found near the scene.

However, the track may have been left by a curious motorist, who drove by the scene after hearing reports of the kidnapping on a police scanner. That motorist came forward last fall after a casual conversation with someone in law enforcement.

Wetterling said Wednesday that authorities told her they recently reviewed the 911 call, in which Trevor described the scene.

"It's very clear there was no vehicle," said Wetterling, who was away from home with her husband at the time of the abduction. "He said he didn't see a vehicle. He didn't hear a vehicle. He didn't hear a car door slam."

Sanner, the sheriff, declined to comment on the briefing with the Wetterlings.

Although Patty Wettering provided few additional details from the meeting, she said she sensed a "renewed energy" in investigators working the case.

5890-1699 It.69 Smt

She said she and her husband have not had time to fully digest the developments, because the family has been dealing with the recent death of her sister.

But, she said, she has no "gut feeling" whether the man who took Jacob lived nearby or far away.

However, she said it is hard for her and others in St. Joseph to even consider that someone local might be involved.

"Who wants to think it could be somebody you know?" she said.

She renewed her plea Wednesday for anyone with information about Jacob to come forward. "I want the man who took Jacob to tell us where he is, to give us some answers," she said.

The writers are at statenews@startribune.com .

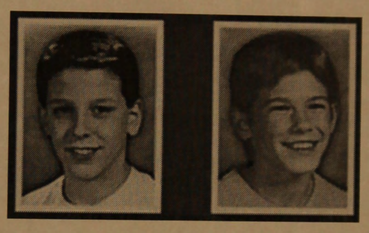
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S890-1699 Ex. 69 9mt

In the KARE-11 News Extra on Wednesday, May 05, 2004:

KARE 11 Investigates: Coincidence in Wetterling Case

Rick Kupchella, Jeff Wiltgen and John Drilling



A former Cold Spring man, who was abducted and assaulted just ten months before Jacob Wetterling disappeared, is coming forward to tell his story publicly for the first time in hopes it will trigger new leads in the Wetterling case.

Watch This Story

500k Broadband Speed
High Speed RealMedia
Modem Speed RealMedia

The man told his story to KARE-TV reporter Rick Kupchella. The station is identifying the man only as "Jared" out of concern for his family.

Preview Part Two

500k Broadband Speed
High Speed RealMedia
Modem Speed RealMedia

Jared has been called upon frequently since his abduction to assist police with possible connections to the Wetterling abduction. In fact, investigators confirm that one of the key sketches released in the search for Wetterling's abductor was actually put together by Jared.

Jared's story begins on a winter night in Cold Spring, Minnesota. It was Friday, January 13, 1989.

Jared was just 12 years old when, while walking home from hockey practice, a man pulled up alongside him on the road and asked for directions.

"I was giving directions, saying 'you go down this block and take a left ..'" Jared said. "As I was giving those brief instructions he stepped out of the vehicle, approached me from behind.

EXTRA

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grabbed me by my shoulders and put me in the car. "

In police records obtained by KARE-TV, Jared told police the man said he had a gun and wasn't afraid to use it.

The abductor ordered Jared to pull his winter cap down over his eyes, forced him into the car and told the boy to get down in the back seat.

"You know, it was a genuine question. I knew the answers and as I was giving them, my life changed, " Jared said.

The man then drove Jared around the area before pulling over in a remote area and sexually assaulting him.

Local investigators were on Jared's case immediately. But ten months later, just days after Jacob Wetterling's abduction, everything changed. The number of investigators jumped dramatically and included the FBI. In the search for Jacob, it was clear police wanted to know everything about what happed to Jared.

"They really stressed the fact that I really take time to remember every little aspect of the case in the hope of getting a better understanding of this particular individual," Jared recalled.

"Because to them it was the road to Jacob?" Kupchella asked.

"You could say that," Jared said.

In the days after Wetterling disappeared, investigators took Jared to car lots to try to identify the make of model of his abductor's car.

They also drove him around at night, trying to trace his abductor's route.

Jared was finally able to lead authorities to the right location when he recognized a distinctive light at a nearby farm.



Jared: ".. maybe this will lead to something. That's why I'm here."

"Where you see the silo there, there was a distinguished light I remember from that night while I was looking out the window," Jared recalled.

Jared's mother, who the station is also not identifying, also spoke to Kupchella about that January night.

"When he walked in the door, I knew something was wrong just by the way he looked - in shock, pale and stuttering," she remembers.

"He kept trying to say 'a guy, a guy,' and he kept saying that. And he finally got that out and I said, 'Jared, we need to talk.'"

After the assault, the man took Jared's blue jeans and his

underwear and left the boy to put his snow pants over the naked lower half of his body.

While driving him back to town, the abductor kept questioning Jared about whether or not the boy could identify him.

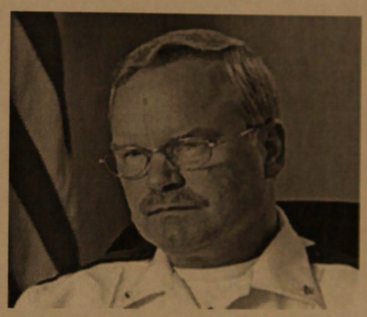
"Jared said to me (that) he said to himself 'Well God, if you think it's my time now, I guess it's my time.' He thought he was going to die," his mother remembers her son saying that night.

Jared says once back near town, the man pulled him from the back seat and told him to run.

"And don't look back or he threatened to shoot, " Jared said. "I did as I was told."

Police were at Jared's home within minutes after his return. He was taken to a local hospital for tests throughout the night.

Jared's abduction, like the Wetterling abduction, has haunted investigators in Stearns County for years.



Sheriff Sanner: ".. The similarities are there and you cannot get beyond that."

When asked by Kupchella to what degree Jared's case is an active criminal investigation, John Sanner, Stearns County Sheriff replied, "to the same degree Wetterling's is because we cannot tell you right now that they're not connected."

Kupchella went on to ask the sheriff, who was a sergeant investigator at the time of the Wetterling abduction, how connected he believes the two cases are.

"The similarities are there and you cannot get beyond that," Sanner said. "But are they really and truly connected? Until we get resolution, I don't know that we can answer that with any certainty."

The list of similarities is as compelling today as it was back in 1989.

- Similar ages. Jared was 12. Jacob was 11.
- Similar Suspect Description. A lone, white male with a low, gravely voice.
- The location of the abductions. Jared was taken in Cold Spring, just ten miles from St. Joseph where Jacob disappeared.
- In each case, there was a threat of a gun.
- The sexual nature of each crime. In Jared's case, he was



5890-1699 #69 5/6/2004

- [illegible] sexually assaulted. In Jacob's case, authorities confirm there was the suggestion of 'sexual interest' in the boys.
- A mask. In Jared's case, the abductor forced the boy's cap over his eyes. In Jacob's case the abductor wore nylon stockings over his head.
- Similar commands. Jared was told to "run away and don't look back or I'll shoot." The boys with Jacob were told to "run into the woods and don't look back or I'll shoot."

The differences include the use of a car in Jared's abduction, while Jacob was approached by a man on foot.

And the biggest difference is one not lost on anyone involved.

"I got Jared back, " Jared's mother said. "Some parents don't even get them back or they find them dead. So I'm thankful I got Jared back. I think of the parents who continue year after year not knowing where their child is, like Mrs. Wetterling and I always wished there was a conclusion for her. I always wanted that for her."

Jared never sought counseling after his abduction and has tried to put the past behind him. He hopes by telling his story now, it might help someone remember something that could help investigators in the Wetterling case.

"If it was solely my own case, I would probably have just moved on because it's been fifteen years. It just seems like a long time, " Jared said. "And who knows, maybe this will lead to something. That's why I'm here."

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KARE Investigates Latest News in Wetterling Case



Wetterling has long known Jared existed, but only met him recently

The search for Jacob Wetterling, one of the biggest criminal investigations in Minnesota history, is seeing dramatic developments 15 years after the 11 year old was taken near his home outside St. Joseph, Minnesota.

Earlier this year police began to refocus their investigation, ruling out the idea that Jacob had been taken in a vehicle. And Wednesday night KARE 11 News reported the existence of a seemingly parallel crime.

Another boy, about the same age, size and 'look' of Jacob was abducted from the streets near St. Joseph just ten months before Jacob disappeared.

Watch This Story

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- Modem Speed RealMedia

Listen to the Audio

Modem Speed RealMedia

Thursday, Rick Kupchella reported on where the latest developments are leading. The following is based on his report.

Last night we introduced you to the *other* little boy.

In 1989, twelve-year-old Jared — whose last name is being withheld — was walking home on a Friday night in Cold Spring, Minnesota. He was grabbed off the street near Rocori Middle School, forced into a car and driven to a remote area where he was violently sexually assaulted.

Police have known Jared's story from the beginning, but the public is just now beginning to see there may be more to the Jacob Wetterling kidnapping.

Police had long said that Jacob was taken away in a vehicle. Investigators had managed to trace Jacob's footprints — the last step ending at a fresh tire track.

Earlier this year investigators announced they are discounting the tire track, believing they've accounted for the tire. The loss of that lead, they say, is a good thing.

"In essence, it breathed all kinds of investigative life back into a 15-year-old case," Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner said. "And all of a sudden we're working on this case like it's something that just happened."

The absence of the vehicle is compelling. It suggests to investigators that Jacob's abductor left on foot, dramatically narrowing the scope of their investigation.

"We are more convinced that this occurred by somebody local, somebody on foot. We are more convinced of that now than we ever have been," Sanner said.

The suspects here are few — and they're the kind of people, according to the sheriff, who would have had a reason to be on that rural road in the middle of nowhere on a Sunday night. The Wetterling investigation was global almost from the start. The local focus is a dramatic shift.

"It's almost unfathomable to believe that somebody right here took Jacob and has been right here all along," Patty Wetterling said. "Even the possibility of there being no car... it changes everything."

It's never been easy for Jacob's mother Patty to believe someone, perhaps a neighbor, could have taken her son. But Patty Wetterling, now somewhat of an expert on missing children herself, has long understood that the obvious questions aren't always so obvious.

"They went door to door and they asked people 'did you notice anything unusual that night?'" She said. "What they're asking now, and what I'm asking, is for people to talk about the *usual*. Who was usually around? Who was usually there on Sunday night? We're asking for somebody who was there — not the unusual. The usual.

Just this week police acknowledged another not so-public aspect of the Jacob Wetterling investigation — Jared's abduction from the streets of Cold Spring, Minnesota — just ten miles from where Jacob was taken.

Police were so struck by the similarities between the two cases that they had Jared put together a sketch of his abductor, and then released it as an image of the suspect in the Wetterling kidnapping.



Patty always knew there was a Jared, but until a few weeks ago they had never met.

"All I knew was Jared, I never knew his last name," Patty

said, recalling how much work Jared has done behind the scenes. "And the pressure they put him through, oh my god, every time we had a new suspect they're running it past this poor 13-year-old kid. My gosh, that's hard."

[redacted]

If you have any information call the Stearns County Sheriff's Department at: 320-251-4240.

For 15 years Jared and Patty have been fighting for the same thing, coming from very different pain. Patty looking for a son. Jared searching for his own attacker — always believing he, too, was trying to find Jacob.

They say, together they'll push harder.

"There was always the notion of 'let's put Jared on TV and see where that gets us, what leads that will bring up,'" Jared said. "I did so willingly after you had contacted me. It was not authorities asking me - just me saying 'it's time.'

"Let's hear about my case — or any other similar cases out there that we can possibly connect to that case. Whatever may come of it, I hope it's positive.

Patty Wetterling is excited about the idea of working with Jared now. She's looking to get him connected with the other boys who were with Jacob when he was taken to see what they might come up with together.

There is a sense — by Patty, by investigators, by Jared — that they are close.

The sheriff says he believes investigators may be closer now than ever to solving the Jacob Wetterling kidnapping.

They all agree that it's the coming together of everybody that can make the difference.

Here's where you come in.

The sheriff is looking for men today who would have been between the ages of ten and 15 in the late '80s and early '90s.

He's specifically looking for boys from the areas around St. Joseph and Cold Spring who were approached in a sexual manner by an adult man and never reported that to police.

"They might have a small piece to the puzzle that would go a long way in helping us out," Sanner said. "It might not be any information we can do anything with — or relevant to our case — but let us make that decision.

The sheriff says now is the time. If you have any information call the Stearns County Sheriff's Department at: 320-251-4240.

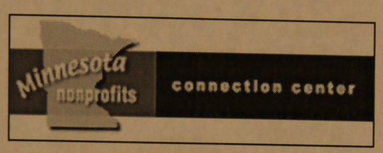
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Last Updated - 5/7/2004 9:49:47 AM

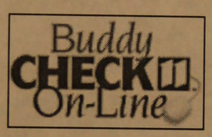
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Question: Suspect vs Witness

From: **dan rassier** (ultratalk@hotmail.com)
Sent: Mon 2/27/06 11:18 AM
To: attorney.general@state.mn.us
Cc: ultratalk@hotmail.com

Hello Attoney General Office:

Briefly, I'm caught in the following situation -

I was a witness to a crime and it was truely only that.
However, the police seem to have other ideas and have made me out to be a suspect.

They have left the whole ugly matter go unchecked for a long time now and the festering continues because they got the media involved.

I would like to help them solve the case but I have been advised by friends and a couple of lawyers just giving free advise to me that I shouldn't contact the police whatsoever with new information I have.

Up to this point, I have been completely honest and cooperative with all questioning and police techniques.

I am feeling as if information I have may be valuable but yet I realize it may just be not helpful or actually wrong in some way. Or the police will not be able to absorb it or connect the dots and find me more of a suspect than ever for just trying to help.

Is there any advise you can send my way.
I'd appreciate any help you can give.

Thanks

ultratalk@hotmail.com

_____
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5890-1699 Ex.69 Smt

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Suspect/Witness

From: **Warmanen, Sandy** (Sandy.Warmanen@state.mn.us)
Sent: Fri 3/10/06 8:20 AM
To: ultratalk@hotmail.com

We are in receipt of your email to the Attorney General dated February 27, 2006. So the Attorney General can respond to you in writing, please reply to this email and provide me with your street address. Thank you,

Sandy Warmanen
MN Attorney General's Office
445 Minnesota Ave., 1800 NCL
St Paul, MN 55101
651/296-7581
sandy.warmanen@state.mn.us

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sctimes.com

January 7, 2009

Police: Man not part of Wetterling abduction

By Kari Petrie
kpetrie@stcloudtimes.com

MILWAUKEE — Milwaukee police have investigated a suburban barber's reported deathbed statement that he was a child killer. They found no connection with any missing-child case, including the abduction of Jacob Wetterling of St. Joseph in 1989, a police spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Milwaukee police last month recovered news clippings, maps, missing-child posters and other items connected to missing-child cases from the home of Vernon Seitz, 62. The items were discovered after finding Seitz dead in his home, according to a search warrant.

Police spokeswoman Anne E. Schwartz acknowledged that there were unusual things found in the search, but she said the investigation didn't come up with anything to show a connection with missing children.

"To suggest that this guy had anything to do with these missing children cases is absolutely inaccurate," she said.

The Wetterling abduction is one of the most well-known cold cases in the area. Wetterling was abducted as he, his brother and a friend were riding their bikes home from a St. Joseph convenience store. A masked gunman stopped them and took Wetterling. The 11-year-old hasn't been seen since.

Seitz's psychiatrist notified Milwaukee police Dec. 12 that he had claimed to have killed a child 50 years ago. Police went to Seitz's home Dec. 15 but found him dead, apparently of natural causes. Inside his home, police found child pornography and paintings of small boys.

Clippings and other items about at least five missing child cases, including the Wetterling case and the 1993 abduction of Polly Klaas in California, were also found in the home.

The items linked to the Wetterling case include maps of St. Joseph and Millstream Park, letters, news stories and videotape of Wetterling taken before his abduction.

Maps were also found relating to at least three other missing-child cases and various other locations.

Officers noted in the warrant that they found newly poured cement and elevated dirt piles at Seitz's home. Officers also found bondage devices in the basement.

Jerry Wetterling said Tuesday night that Seitz came to St. Joseph twice after Jacob was abducted.

He was one of many people who contacted the family, saying they had dreams or visions about where Jacob was, Jerry Wetterling said.

Seitz was very upset about Jacob's abduction and tried to conduct his own investigation, Wetterling said. Seitz was "very much obsessed" with the case, he said.

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Wetterling said he first heard about what was found in Seitz's home when contacted by media. An investigator spoke with his wife, Patty, Tuesday night, but mostly just to touch base with the family, he said.

Jerry Wetterling continues to hold out hope that the case will be solved, but doesn't think the new developments will lead to the abductor. "I don't think it's this guy," he said.

Wetterling said he doesn't think Seitz had ever been to St. Joseph before visiting the family after Jacob's disappearance.

He described Seitz as being "kind of lonely." He was artistic and had painted a picture of Jacob.

Relatives of Seitz told Milwaukee television station WTMJ that Seitz, a Racine native, had great concern for child-abduction victims, having been abducted as a child himself.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

5890-1699 It. 69 8mt

Discussion



Eric Porter
Posted:
3-Mar-2010
3:01 PM

Story Contest Time! (Age group: 46-55)

Grab a mug of hot cocoa and a seat in front of the fire because it's story time in the community! This week, we're interested in hearing your best "make new friends" story.

Depending on the submissions, Ameriprise may select several of you to interview further to capture your full story!

- **Think back to a friendship that you made within the past 5 years.**
- **Tell us the story about how you met this person.** For example - Was it through a class you took at a community college? Was it online? Was it through a volunteering activity?
- **What was it that made you want to get to know this person better?**
- **We want to hear all the colorful details so feel free to elaborate!**

For this activity, we split everyone into three age groups so you'll see only stories from your contemporaries. After we receive the submissions, we'll pull back the curtain and reveal the stories to everyone. In the meanwhile, feel free to comment on each other's tales.



Kelly S, IL
Posted:
3-Mar-2010
3:43 PM

My Work Husband

This is not a sordid tale, all on the up and up and my husband is well aware of my friendship with a co-worker at my work. He and I started at the same time, I support his area and we connected on a professional wavelength in terms of energy, commitment to excellence and being results-oriented. The professional relationship grew into a true friendship - purely platonic. We see each other for coffee, lunch, meetings and simply enjoy each other's company. We can talk about anything from what is happening in our personal lives, to current events, to movies and entertainment to work related issues. I would say once you move beyond work and care to talk about others subjects with someone, it becomes a friendship rather than a work acquaintance. We can bitch, moan, celebrate work-related stories and issues and so, in a sense, we have a shoulder to cry on. As an adult, it is rare to find new really good friends but if you are lucky you can - either through work, your children's school, volunteering or pursuit of hobbies/sports. My husband, who has a good sense of humor (one of his best traits) always asks me how my "boyfriend" at work is. My daughter has picked up and asks as well. Having someone you trust, connect with, rely on for support is very important in today's world of work.



Holly Decker

Sounds like a terrific friendship!

S890-1699 It. 69 Smt

Posted:
3-Mar-2010
7:23 PM
NEW

The good and the bad...

My story is about a co-worker who I came to know under strange circumstances. Sam (as I will call him) was new to my company and I had just lost another co-worker to a competi...

Eric M, OH
Posted:
3-Mar-2010
9:25 PM
NEW

Making friends at Work

Almost five years ago I changed jobs because I was downsized. It didn't take long for me to find a new job. The new company was a small one (I was the 21st employee when I w...

Bill N, OH
Posted:
4-Mar-2010
11:11 AM
NEW

Small Church Group

My wife an I attend a very large church. During last year's "all church journey" a number of small groups were organized to meet weekly to discuss the journey theme, etc. My w...

Posted:
4-Mar-2010
11:21 AM

It takes only 1 time!

I've known this person for over 20 years but never had any direct contact. Last Fall, this person saw me in the mall and said "Hi" to me and knew my name! We talked for about an hour and I believe we will be friends forever because we realized how much we want the same thing even though it appeared differently! I can say it is simply amazing how if you don't communicate, how one person can develop so many wrong perceptions about the other without any real contact! Basically - we finally met because of a horrible event in both of our lifes. We never knew many of the connections to the situation that happened were there between us. Obviously, we both know we need to pursue our destiny. However, even though the ice has been broken, the water is still cold but definitely getting warmer.

S890-1699 It. 69 Smt

msn® Hotmail®

drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:43 PM

From : Rassier, Michael R <michael.rassier@nwa.com>
Sent : Tuesday, February 24, 2004 1:14 PM
To : "Dan Rassier" <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : RE: News...

Hi Dan

That's right...they weren't supposed to be videoing! Boy, are they scum or what! Isn't that something! Well, now you know...don't let those guys get near you again! Look at it this way; you learned a valuable lesson about the news media! What a was to instill confidence, huh? I wonder if they'd be stupid enough to try to interview you again...

Mike

-----Original Message-----
From: Dan Rassier [mailto:drassier@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2004 1:03 PM
To: Rassier, Michael R
Subject: RE: News...

Mike

I didn't see it but heard it from Sierra over the phone.
I had no idea theywere audio/video recording me.
They knew I didn't want that.
I am ok....but others are really ticked.
Well...yeah....I'm mad about the lady talking to me.
Lies/deceit/no morals....depressing.

dan

>From: "Rassier, Michael R" <michael.rassier@nwa.com>
>To: <drassier@hotmail.com>
>Subject: News...
>Date: Tue, 24 Feb 2004 11:38:48 -0600
>
>Hey Dan
>
>I didn't get a chance to watch Channel 9 news but I did tape it. Did you
>watch it?
>Here's a link to the story on the web:
>
>http://www.kmsp.tv/news/local/story.asp?content_id=1621598
>
>What do you think?
>Mike
>

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http://click.atdmt.com/AVE/go/onm00200362ave/direct/01/

S890-1699 I+69 bmt

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:49 PM

From : Rassier, Michael R <michael.rassier@nwa.com>
Sent : Tuesday, February 24, 2004 1:33 PM
To : "Dan Rassier" <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : RE: News...

It would be interesting! One of those lawyers that you only have to pay if you win...I wonder if they'd take your case. It might be tough; your name, identity was not given out "directly" on the news report etc...That's good! but it might make it harder to sue...
Mike

-----Original Message-----
From: Dan Rassier [mailto:drassier@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2004 1:16 PM
To: Rassier, Michael R
Subject: RE: News...

I'd be very surprised to see them again.
They got what they wanted for their story.
Other than that....
I'm contacting lawyers now to see if I can sue?

dan

5890-1699 If. 69 dmt

msn® Hotmail®

drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:50 PM

From : Rassier, Michael R <michael.rassier@nwa.com>
Sent : Tuesday, February 24, 2004 4:06 PM
To : "Dan Rassier" <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : RE: News...

O.K. Dan...No more Mr. Nice Guy!!! Maybe you should get a lawyer...then if somebody wants to talk to you about this stuff, you can give them the lawyer's card and say simply "you can talk to my lawyer"! I suppose you could say that without having a lawyer and you might scare them off but I won't count on it.

Mike 5890-1699 It. 69 amt

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:44 PM

From : Rassier, Michael R <michael.rassier@nwa.com>
Sent : Wednesday, February 25, 2004 1:55 PM
To : "Dan Rassier" <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : RE: News...

Hi Dan

Are you getting much hassle at school about this whole thing? Hope not. Hope it all "blows over" quickly! Is Dad down here at the Capitol today? Are you guys going the Globe Trotters on Friday?
Mike

S890-1699 It 69 fmt

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From : Joyce Sutphen <jsutphen@gac.edu>
Sent : Monday, February 23, 2004 10:57 PM
To : "Dan Rassier" <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : Re: It was so cold....

Dear Dan,
Just wanted to say HI and say that I'm thinking of you, hoping that you aren't getting any flack from anyone because of the whole Channel 9 news thing. I'm really sorry you have to go through that--I wouldn't know what to say if a news crew followed me. Anyway, sending much love--
Joyce

5890-1699 Jt. 69 Smt

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Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:49 PM

From : Joyce Sutphen <jsutphen@gac.edu>
Sent : Tuesday, February 24, 2004 3:49 PM
To : <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : Fw: Advice

Dear Dan,
I have to admit, I'm a bit worried about you and asked my GOOD friend Tim to recommend a lawyer. I hope you'll give him a call--
Joyce

----- Original Message -----
From: Timothy J. Nolan
To: Joyce Sutphen
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2004 2:55 PM
Subject: RE: Advice

Joyce--One of my partners, Bruce Hanley, would be the perfect person on this issue. He is a criminal defense lawyer, highly regarded, a great person, very discrete, and he deals with these kind of issues all the time. I think it would be well worth your brother's time to contact him. I have all of Bruce's contact information below:

Bruce H. Hanley
work 612-340-8921
home 763-572-0153
cell 612-804-4139
e-mail -- bhhanley@riderlaw.com

Tim (I could also have Bruce contact your brother).

S890-1699 If. 69 Smt

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Friday, March 5, 2004 3:38 PM

From : Joyce Sutphen <jsutphen@gac.edu>
Sent : Tuesday, March 2, 2004 6:36 AM
To : "Dan Rassier" <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : Re: Request....

Will do!
I assume you saw Channel 9 last night? All they want is to stir up ideas all over the place. Like Joe said--Faux News (and some other things). Hope you (and mom and dad) have a more peaceful week.
Love you--
Joyce

----- Original Message -----
From: "Dan Rassier" <drassier@hotmail.com>
To: <joer@ebrsi.com>; <jsutphen@gustavus.edu>; <kerassier@comcast.net>; <Michael.rassier@nwa.com>; <NRassier@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2004 8:28 PM
Subject: Request....

> Hey ya'll:
>
> The lawyer I talked to has urged me to keep all Tapes of the TV broadcasts
> and all paper reports about the case whether it involves me or not. So
> please just save the Tribune/Pioneer Press Papers that have things in them.
>
> Thanks!
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Printed: Friday, March 5, 2004 4:03 PM

From : <kerassier@comcast.net>
Sent : Monday, February 23, 2004 2:57 PM
To : "Dan Rassier" <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : Re: copy of questions

Yeah...I'll take the news show. I hope they don't mention anything about you being a suspect or at least give clues as to who they are investigating.

You may want to seek some legal advice if anything else develops. I don't think the newspeople have the right to be asking you questions. Other than the fact that you live close to the site, what other information/clues/ etc do they want from you? Why are you a suspect????? There is nothing that links you to the crime other than how close you live. But Schreifels live even closer? What did they see?

Anyway.....TV is just trying to make it a big story to raise ratings. That's their job I guess.

Did the same reporter come?

Hey.....YOU CAN COME DOWN ANYTIME YOU WANT DAN!! You don't need a reason other than you want to visit! I mean that BRO!

Any thoughts on that April 25th Oklahoma marathon? LONG DRIVE! I don't think Mike is too interested....but....anyway

Later.....take care

Kevin

P.S. The drumline thing was ok. St.Cloud was very good. I didn't realize the theatrical element to the shows....the whole theme idea and dress and other things. But it was neat to see.

Legs are ok.....I ran a bunch Sat and Sun. Took today off. Quads were kind of sore. I might run tomorrow morning.

> Dear Kevin:
>
> You are a good brother and know me better than most everyone else.
> I truely wanted to go down and was planning on it basically. At this point
> in my life
> the $7 was not the reason. It was just the time it would involve. I also
> thought....why didn't I go in Cold Spring when it was here? The only reason
> that I wanted to go now was so I could hang out with you guys and have a
> good time. It wasn't the drumline thing really....
>
> Anyway...yeah. Things are not good. I wish channel 9 would have stayed
> away from the farm on Friday night. Mom/Dad are so upset about it all. I'm
> only upset about having them getting ticked.
> So that took 4 hours of time and well you know how I am. It interfers with
> all my training. Running was good this weekend. It feels even better with
> all this stuff going down.
>
> I knew I was being followed again today and the channel 9 lady was at my
> school in Rockville. I talked to her for 25 minutes and basically a rehash
> of things. If you can tape channel 9 this week for news. I may need it if
> I am put out there by channel 9.
>
> Anyway....how was the drumline deal?
> How are the legs?
>
> later

S890-1699 I-69 Ohio

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:52 PM

From : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Sent : Wednesday, February 25, 2004 10:09 AM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : band news

Hey Kev

Well, the elementary band played last night and it was without a doubt the best I ever felt about
the overall job we did for a long time. And ROCORI won the game that they were supposed to lose. The band made the difference. THe kids were pumped and had more fun than usual. The big hit was putting a few kids in old band uniforms and getting them to be cheer leaders for charge.

On the other side of the coin.....well. I sure got stabbed by channel nine. When I got to Rockville Monday morning they must had the place staked out. Someone was hiding with a camera.... Too late to cry "FOUL" but there is blood now and I'm going to pursue that route....sueing channel 9.

The problem is it is branching off to the Tribune and Channel 11....but I'm not talking.
Here is the note I sent to the Tribune after they wouldn't tell me their source for my name.

Hello Dan:----------the Tribune reporter....

After my disappointing experience with Channel 9 and their "investigating", I'm sorry I won't be able to talk.
I have been lied to - deceived - misquoted - and harassed.
Their inaccurate TV reports have created a living hell for
my family.

Thank you already showing some class in your pursuit of information.

Dan Rassier 5890-1699 I+69 ant

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About this Form

Message

Monday, March 8, 2004 10:40 AM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>

Subject: ?

To: dan rassier

(1)

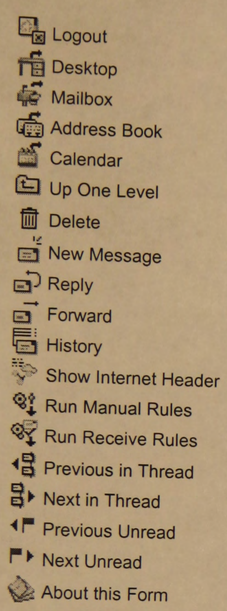
Dan,
Any new developments with you?

Jill

Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com

S890-1699 I7.69 Smt

Re: ?



Message

Monday, March 8, 2004 11:19 AM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>

Subject: Re: ?

To: dan rassier

(3)

Dan,
Thanks for your note. That would be a tricky situation to handle.

Jill

Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com

>>> "dan rassier" <rassierd@rocori.k12.mn.us> 03/08/04 11:08AM >>>
Hi Jill:

(2)

All is quiet for us.
I'm dealing with the rumors now especially at school.
I never had to do that 14 years ago.

later-
Dan

5890-1699 I-69 dm+

Sincerely,

Dan Browning
Reporter
Star Tribune
612-673-4493

(4) "dan rassier" <rassierd@rocori.k12.mn.us> 02/25/04 09:59AM >>>

Hello Dan:

After my disappointing experience with Channel 9 and their "investigating", I'm sorry I won't be able to talk. I have been lied to - deceived - misquoted - and harassed. Their inaccurate TV reports have created a living hell for my family.

Thank you already showing some class in your pursuit of information.

Dan Rassier

---

(3) "Dan Browning" <dbrowning@startribune.com> writes:

Hi,
We don't discuss sources of information. But your name is out among the state's journalists. If you would care to talk, please call us today after 9 a.m. You have not been charged with anything, so we would not name you in the newspaper. But we would like to hear your viewpoint on the latest developments.

Sincerely,

Dan Browning
Reporter
Star Tribune
612-673-4493

"dan rassier" <rassierd@rocori.k12.mn.us> 02/24/04 11:25PM >>>

(2) Hello:

Where did you get my name?

Thank you.

---

drassier@hotmail.com

(1st) "Dan Browning" <dbrowning@startribune.com> writes:

Dear Mr. Rassier,
We would like to speak with you about the Jacob Wetterling case. We understand that you are denying any connection to the case. We think it would be a good idea for you to speak with us, because your name is circulating.

If you have any comment, please call Pat Doyle at 612-673-4504, or Paul McEnroe, at 612-673-1745.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

5890-1699 I-69 dmt

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:54 PM

From : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Sent : Wednesday, February 25, 2004 2:34 PM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : tribune history

(7)

Dan,
I don't know why your name surfaced. I'm not that close to this story. But if you have something to say that would shed light on this, it might cool the fire some. If you change your mind, I'd be happy to come up and talk.

Sincerely,
Dan Browning

"dan rassier" <rassierd@rocori.k12.mn.us> 02/25/04 02:04PM >>>

(6)

Hi Dan Browning:

Thanks for your understanding. What got me into trouble in the first place was my willingness to help out and be of service in order to maybe,
just maybe help solve this case. Instead, Channel 9 has just "completely
trashed our family and dumped us
out to rot."

I understand about not revealing your sources. But if the police or MBCA
is responsible for revealing vital information relating to my ID, then we
should all wonder?! I've been nothing but completely honest and cooperative with them. They talked to me
14 years ago several times, and the media never contacted me once. So how
do they come up with my name now?

Thanks
Dan Rassier

(5)

"Dan Browning" <dbrowning@startribune.com> writes:

Dan, Rassier –

I am sorry that you had such a bad experience. I'm sorry to say that Channel 9 is notorious for its hype and questionable ethics. You might even recall that one of the station's top reporters, Tom Lyden, pleaded guilty in August 2000 to tampering with a motor vehicle for taking a videotape from the unlocked car of a man charged with dogfighting; two theft charges were dropped in the deal. I hope you won't judge all reporters by Channel 9's behavior.

At some point, you may want to reconsider and get your comments out for the record. Should that happen, I hope you'll think of us. You can reach me at work: 612-673-4493 or on my cell: 612-719-9043. I'd be happy to speak with you, though I'm not actually assigned to this story. I was just pitching in by finding your email address and doing some background research. The reporters who are working on the story are: Pat Doyle (612-673-45-04), Paul McEnroe (612-673-1745), Dick Meryhew (612-673-4425), or Jill Burcum (612-673-7846).

S890-1699 Jf. 69 om+

From: Dan Rassier [mailto:drassier@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2004 2:25 PM
To: Bruce H. Hanley
Cc: drassier@hotmail.com
Subject: Update on Wetterling Matter

Hello Bruce:

Thanks for getting back to me. Life is going to fast. How are you? Am I remembering this right? That is, I heard from my sister Joyce that you suddenly got very sick or had cancer? Maybe my memory is all mixed up? Whether this is accurate or not, I sure hope you are doing well.

The Stearns County People and the MN Investigators have not contacted me directly since that mess in February started. What they have been doing though is talking to people who know me and that type of thing looking for something they can use. People have come up to me and asked me point blank about the idea of me having something to do with the kidnapping.

One thing that comes to my mind is this: On our farm we have this gravel pit where over the years, garbage and what not has been disgarded. In later Spring I was down there, cleaning up some stuff (I've done a lot of this over the years.). Well, someone must have seen me down there and called it in to the police. So when I was in school a couple of days later, the MN investigator and Stearns County Police (they didn't leave a card) came and talked to my Dad and wanted to check it out. So Dad brought them down to the pit for the "tour" and he showed them my garage where I do lots of recycling stuff for metals/plastic/glass. They told my Dad they had to check it out because someone saw me down there with a shovel digging.

I have not contacted them but sure would like to because I think they are completely mixed up or just playing some sort of game with me or just are using me to trick someone else into slipping up.

Channel 9 is the station that made things very bad for us. Channel 11 came out with their twist on things later and that kinda of did me in here at school. Parents and kids started talking and thinking way too much. But Summer came and hopefully-- all will fade away.

As I recall you are a "Criminal Lawyer". So just recently-I've been calling around St. Cloud with the idea of taking Channel 9 to court for defamation of character or that sort of thing. I only found this one lawyer who is thinking about it but he just hasn't called back yet. It's taking a long time, so I don't know what's up. He thought it was "interesting".

Do you have any ideas for a lawyer for this type of case. I was even thinking about sueing the police in someway because everything points to them for releasing my name or something just to make trouble for me.

Can you comment on any of my thoughts?

Hope you are doing well and take care.

I only check emails about 1x a week during the Summer but I thought this may be
good to put my situation into words a bit for you. I sure wish I could be of further help in solving this case, but as it is, the police have silenced one very important witness.

Thanks for keeping in touch -

Dan Rassier
320-363-8427

drassier@hotmail.com

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Printed: Wednesday, September 1, 2004 3:48 PM

From : Tami L. Fisher <TLFisher@riderlaw.com>
Sent : Wednesday, August 4, 2004 11:21 AM
To : "Dan Rassier" <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : RE: Update on Wetterling Matter

Dear Dan:

Thank you very much for the update. I am indeed struggling with cancer at this time, and not spending much time physically at the office. I do wish to respond to client inquiries as best I can and I apologize for this delayed response. I have a team of criminal defense lawyers on staff at Rider Bennett and each of them can provide you with excellent service with your needs and they can be in contact with me about the nature of any case that may develop. I recommend you keep in contact with my office (see below for more details) for any developments that might happen in the case. My partners are excellent criminal defense lawyers, and will be available to help you along with our whole team of seven lawyers and a full staff who can assist you or any individual who finds himself or herself in trouble with the law.

Specifically to your question, I think that you may have a difficult time suing Stearns County and/or the TV stations for libel/slander or anything of that nature. It seems they have carblanch to say whatever they want about a potential suspect in criminal cases these days. The public clamours for information of real people in news reports and that helps law enforcement in obtaining more information which helps the news stations sell advertising. Timothy D. Webb, Esq. at my office can help you assess this situation in particular. In addition to being a criminal defense attorney, one of my staff, he also has experience in dealing with libel/slander matters. I am sure that he will be willing to talk to you about this fascinating issue and also be able to assist you with any criminal defense issues if that need arises in the future, which hopefully will not.

I recommend you contact my paralegal, Carrie Briggs, for any questions or concerns you might have. She can put you in touch with Timothy Webb, Esq. (as mentioned above) or any of the other attorneys on my staff to help you assess either situation.
Carrie's phone number is (612) 335-3881 or you can e-mail her at www.ccbriggs@riderlaw.com.

Best of luck to you Dan. I hope that some of the furor dies down. Thank you for the e-mail of July 13, 2004. Please keep in touch.

Very truly yours,
Bruce H. Hanley

Or

Carrie C. Briggs, Paralegal
Rider Bennett, LLP
333 South Seventh Street, Suite 2000
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone No. (612) 335-3881
Fascimile No. (612) 340-7900
Website www.riderlaw.com

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-----Original Message-----

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Central Minnesota Story Chat Feedback for Nov. 9, 2004

Chat for: Vigil signals hope for missing St. John's student

AI from Collegeville:

The St. Cloud Times reported on May 6, 2004 that Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner has said that the most likely explanation for Josh Guimond's disappearance "is that he wandered away from the party [i.e., the card game] and either fell into a lake or one of the swampy areas on campus." However, all three lakes on campus had been cleared by the Trident Foundation – the top search team in the nation – in May 2003. After an exhaustive search, Scott Romme, executive director of the Foundation, recommend that the search for Josh head in another direction: "Efforts [by the Stearns County Sheriff's Department] coupled with our technologies and efforts should provide a very high degree of reassurance to the family and the community that Josh is most probably somewhere else" (Maple Lake Messenger, May 21, 2003). Sheriff John Sanner responded that although the Trident Foundation did not find any trace of Josh in the three lakes it investigated, the search did not rule out the possibility that Josh was in one of the lakes. " 'We felt more comfortable in looking at other possibilities after the Trident search,' Sanner said. 'But that's not to say that Josh didn't walk into a heavily swampy area and sink into the mud'…" (Maple Lake Messenger, November 5, 2003). On May 6, 2004, the St. Cloud Times reported that about 10 members of the sheriff department's Mounted Reserves had searched areas that had been too wet to cover in earlier searches. They searched lowland areas near the university for about 3 1/2 hours, but found nothing. The sheriff then said that no more searches were planned, unless new information came to investigators. In summary: (1) The premier underwater search team in the United States has cleared any lakes that Josh could plausibly have fallen into. (2) After the Trident Foundation ruled out the lakes, law enforcement authorities (who are not underwater search experts) were reluctant to discount the possibility that Josh was in one of the three lakes investigated, but held forth the possibility that Josh may have walked into a heavily swampy area and sunk into the mud. This speculation flies in the face of logic. It seems implausible that Josh could have wandered off into the darkness toward a swampy area. To do so, he would not only have had to proceed in the opposite direction from his intended destination (his residence hall), but he would also have had to walk away from the broad, well-lit, paved pedestrian walkway that he had taken numerous times before to and from his destination. (3) There is no factual or credible information that supports the speculation that Josh may have walked into a swamp and sunk into the mud. However, if authorities really believe this is a possibility, it is imperative they drain these low-lying areas and conduct a conclusive search to exclude this possibility.

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(4) There is no evidence that Josh vanished of his own accord. He was without his car, glasses, or a coat warm enough for the freezing mid-November weather. None of his credit cards have been used and there has been no contact with any friends or family members in the two years since his disappearance. To conclude, the St. Cloud Times today quotes Sheriff Sanner as saying there is no evidence that Joshua was abducted or was the victim of any crime. However, this does not eliminate the possibility that Josh could have been abducted by a meticulous perpetrator who left no evidence of a crime. In view of the circumstances, an abduction appears to be the most plausible explanation for Josh's disappearance. A particularly compelling argument is that another young male, Jacob Wetterling, was abducted just a few miles away 13 years earlier, and sexual predators are known to be highly territorial. It would be foolish and irresponsible to discount two disappearances of young males in close proximity as an unfortunate coincidence.

***Filled with questions** from MN:*

Have you reported your abuser to the police yet? They need his name. He still lives in the area. No one likes to think about who else he may have harmed in the years since he abused you. We do know that abusive behavior typically escalates. Please make the call. With silence, the truth will never be known.

***hometowngirl** from CO:*

How awful for Josh's family. I guess no matter how old our children get we will still worry about their safety. College students are no exception. I'll pray they find their son and continue to keep an ever vigilant eye on my kids even when they say their not a baby anymore.

***Thoughts INC** from Saint Joseph MN:*

My thoughts are with friends and family of Josh. We all have lost something before and we find it in a place we have looked "X" number of times. Unless the search is completed with what only a few of us are blessed with, the search is what most people call "Going through the motions." It is obvious from Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner's comments that he has only "gone through the motions". If you look back at other cases where Sheriff Sanner has spoken out, you will notice what I have noticed. Without getting too specific, let me just say Josh's Dad has a right to be very disappointed with how the case has evolved and how he has been treated. Unless we have true leadership and action in the Stearns County Sheriff Department, we can only pray that area unsolved cases are solved completely.

***PaulaPie** from USA:*

Joshua, we are still looking, searching, praying...and wondering...where are you...what happened to you...God bless you dear one

Back to the Story

Story Chat

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Go Back

May 11, 2002 - Agents reviewing Abbey's records
Filed Under: Jacob Wetterling, St. John's

Authorities investigating the 1989 abduction of Jacob Wetterling are reviewing records of 11 monks under restrictions at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minn.

The monks' activities have been restricted because of allegations or admissions of sexual abuse.
Stearns County Sheriff Jim Kostreba said Friday that he and Chief Deputy Doug Pearce met with St. John's Abbot John Klassen last week asking to review the records as part of investigations into two unsolved cases.

One is the stabbing deaths of sisters Mary Reker, 15, and Susanne Reker, 12, whose bodies were found in an abandoned gravel quarry west of St. Cloud on Sept. 28, 1974, 26 days after they disappeared while shopping for school supplies.

The other is the October 1989 abduction of Wetterling, who lived in nearby St. Joseph and was 11 at the time he disappeared. He has not been seen since.

Kostreba said he did not discuss details of the cases with Klassen, who provided authorities with the information they requested.

"We didn't focus on specific cases . . . but there are two of them we have interest in," the sheriff said.

"Reker and Wetterling?" the sheriff said. "Obviously we're interested in both of them."

Kostreba said that over the years investigators have followed up on leads or tips involving some of the monks. But he said this week that national attention to sexual abuse by priests led his department to take a new look at the cases.

He said authorities are reviewing the records of the 11 monks "to see if it will develop into leads."

Pearce said agents from the FBI, the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and Stearns County are reviewing the records.

5890 1699 It 69 Smt

"For those of us working the case, there's nothing new other than it's another lead," said Patty Wetterling, Jacob's mother. "The FBI was there right from the beginning. It's not like it's all brand new. It's just one more look at something we knew something about. It's good that they're checking on everything. It's good to look again."
Said Pearce, who was on duty the night Jacob was abducted: "Like all leads, we have to check them out very thoroughly. Certainly, any information we obtain from the church or any business on any suspects is very important. The more cooperation we get from an organization, the more thorough we can be."

Jacob, his brother Trevor, 10, and best friend Aaron Larson, 11, took off from the Wetterlings' house in St. Joseph about 9 p.m. on Oct. 22, 1989, to pick up a video at a Tom Thumb store, about a mile away. Two of the boys were on bikes; the third took a scooter.

On the trip home, a man appeared on the gravel road about a quarter-mile from the Wetterlings' house, ordered the boys to drop to the ground, looked at each boy, asked their ages, then freed Trevor and Aaron, telling them to run and not look back. The man threatened to shoot the boys if they looked. When the boys finally looked back, Jacob was gone.

Over the next several weeks, investigators and volunteers searched the countryside in and around St. Joseph, looking for any sign of Jacob.

Over the past 12 1/2 years, investigators have followed up on nearly 30,000 leads and cleared nearly 4,000 suspects. They've consulted psychics and checked out sightings of Jacob look-alikes and explored dozens of theories. Leads have taken investigators to nearly every state and around the world, Pearce said.

He said that, on average, investigators still get two or three new tips a week on the case.

- Richard Meryhew is at richm@startribune.com.
Agents reviewing Abbey's records // They hope for clues on Jacob Wetterling;
Richard Meryhew; Staff Writer
Minneapolis Star Tribune 05-11-2002

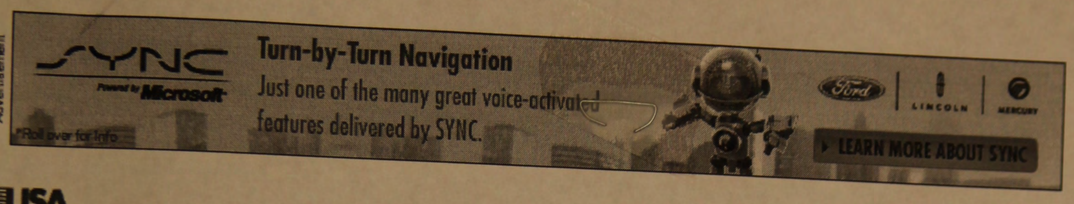
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Wetterling friend still hopes for a happy ending

Posted 10/19/2009 10:35 AM ET

By Kari Petrie St. Cloud Times

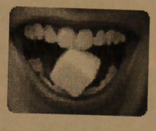
SLAYTON, Minn. — In the Wetterling living room on the night of Oct. 22, 1989, 11-year-old Aaron Larson kept waiting for Jacob Wetterling to come home.

He watched through the picture window every time a squad car pulled up and an officer got out.

"I just remember looking out that window and thinking 'OK, he's going to get out and this is going to be over,"' Aaron said recently in his southern Minnesota living room.

It's been 20 years since Aaron's best friend Jacob was abducted on a rural road outside St. Joseph. Aaron has moved forward. He's gotten engaged and become a father. He served with the Army Reserves in Iraq and settled in Slayton with his family.

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But Aaron relives daily the moment when he lost the only best friend he's ever had. It comes back whenever he sees a child on a bike.

"It's something I'll have with me for the rest of my life," he said.

Oct. 22, 1989, was a Sunday, the middle of a three-day weekend, and a nice October afternoon. So like most weekends, Aaron decided to go over to his best friend Jacob's house.

They were always outside playing sports such as basketball and soccer. Everything they did, they did together.

Jacob's parents, Jerry and Patty Wetterling, had gone to a party. Aaron, Jacob, 11, Jacob's brother Trevor, 10, and sister Carmen, 7, were home. The boys started to get restless. It was a nice day out; they wanted to go get a movie.

Aaron said they tried to figure out a way to persuade Jacob's parents to let them go out. They got a neighbor to baby-sit Carmen, and got the OK by phone.

So that evening the boys hopped on their bikes and a scooter to make the trip along the quiet, dead-end road to Tom Thumb to find a movie. They wanted "Major League," but it wasn't on the shelf. Instead they picked up "The Naked Gun."

Aaron still hasn't seen the film.

He remembers that it was really dark that night; the moon and stars weren't out. The boys set out on the familiar road toward the Wetterling home.

Aaron remembers seeing the metal flash of a handgun and hearing a voice break the darkness.

A man who seemed to have come out of nowhere told them to stop, he has a gun, get off their bikes and lay down in the ditch on their stomachs.

Then the man asked Trevor how old he was. When he said 10, the man told him to run. He then asked Aaron and Jacob their ages. They said 11.

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The man told Aaron to run away.

"I caught up to Trevor pretty quick," Aaron said.

Aaron and Trevor stopped about 50-75 yards away and looked back for Jacob.

"At that point they were gone," he said.

Aaron and Trevor ran to the Wetterlings' home. The entire way, Aaron made sure Trevor kept up with him. He knew they had to call 911.

"You don't know what's going on," he said.

Looking back, Aaron said his first reaction when he saw the man was to laugh. He thought maybe it was some high school kid playing a prank. He was caught completely off guard.

"We biked that road hundreds of times," he said.

When the boys got home, police were called. Soon neighbors and dozens of officers arrived at the Wetterling home.

Officers took Aaron and Trevor separately into a bedroom and asked them questions about what happened. It would be the first of many times that the two would tell their stories.

The following Tuesday, Aaron returned to school for half a day. He describes it as the worst day he ever had at school.

Everyone stared at him and the other kids seemed almost afraid of him. He had to be escorted by police because no one was sure what sort of situation they were dealing with.

"It kind of hit me then," Aaron said.

He didn't go back for another week or so. It was hard, but Aaron said it was good for him to return to some normalcy and to be around his other friends.

"It was a good thing to get back," he said.

As the days turned into weeks and there was no sign of Jacob, Aaron kept thinking the same thing.

"This is going to end soon," he said.

Dealing with the emotions that follow such an event isn't easy and Aaron admits he doesn't wear his emotions on his sleeve.

He does recall one time when he, family and close friends gathered in a circle and held hands while listening to Jacob's favorite song, "Listen" by Red Grammer. He was then able to let out those emotions while surrounded by loved ones.

"It's nice to know they're there for you," he said.

Harder for him to get past is the guilt he feels. He understands he can't change the past, but he has some survivor's guilt.

Aaron keeps in touch with the Wetterlings, whom he describes as a great family. He saw Patty and Jerry this summer.

He said he feels some of that guilt when he sees them: He got away safely while Jacob did not.

"That's hard for me sometimes," he said.

Aaron and Trevor, who lives in Colorado, still talk regularly, although they've only discussed the abduction a couple times. Their friendship has evolved and their shared experience has formed a special bond between the two.

"It's good to have that," he said.

Aaron said he was a carefree 11-year-old before Jacob was taken. But that changed.

He became apprehensive about the dark and didn't sleep well. He was jumpy and worried that the man in the mask would come

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back. Aaron's head filled with thoughts about why the man took Jacob but not him.

"You would lay in bed and think about these things," he said. "Why am I still here and he's not?"

But he doesn't let those thoughts overwhelm him. Aaron thinks of the incident daily, but "it doesn't consume me," he said.

Instead, small things remind him of that night, such as seeing children out riding their bikes. The abduction changed Aaron, changed who he is as a person, he said.

It forced him to grow up a lot quicker and made him more guarded. He tends to push people away.

"I don't 100 percent let them in," he said.

He is engaged to Jackie Tentinger, and the couple has a 3-year-old son named Anikan. Aaron is a member of the Army Reserves and served in Iraq last year. He works for Progressive Insurance.

Aaron knows it will be hard when his own son gets older and wants to ride his bike with his friends. Living in a small town, Aaron said he expects children to be safe. And he knows that there's a 99.9 percent chance his son will be.

But that 0.1 percent happened to Aaron. And that's not something he can forget.

"In my back of my mind, I went through that one event that could happen," he said.

The hope that Jacob comes home is always in the back of Aaron's mind. Hearing stories like the return of Jaycee Dugard, who was abducted when she was 11 and found alive 18 years later, keeps that hope alive.

"You hope your story will end up being a good story too," he said.

—

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Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:55 PM

From : Joe Rassier <joer@ebrsi.com>
Reply-To : joer@ebrsi.com
Sent : Thursday, February 26, 2004 2:43 PM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : What's up Doc?

Hi Dan,

I've been watching for a statement from the Stearns County Sheriff Department all day on their website and The Times. Have you heard of anything?

Did you give Bruce Hanley a call? I called him this morning about 10 to say you may give him a call. He said it wouldn't cost you anything to talk to him. He seemed like a good guy.

Let us know what's going on!

Dig it Dano!
Joey

Called Joe 2x on this.
Bruce Hanley called me at Home on Feb. 29- Sunday.

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Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:56 PM

From : Joe Rassier <joer@ebrsi.com>
Reply-To : joer@ebrsi.com
Sent : Friday, February 27, 2004 8:17 AM
To : drassier@hotmail.com, michael.rassier@nwa.com, jsutphen@gac.edu
Subject : FAUX 9

Hey,
I think "FAUX 9" would be a better name for a certain news channel and I think "Dirty Laundry" would be one heck of a "theme" tune. Perhaps we should put together a parody website "faux9noose.com"?

Joe

Dirty Laundry lyrics:

I make my living off the evening news
Just give me something, something I can use
People love it when you lose, they love dirty laundry

Well, I could've been an actor, but I wound up here
I just have to look good, I don't have to be clear
Come and whisper in my ear, give us dirty laundry

Kick 'em when they're up, kick 'em when they're down
Kick 'em when they're up, kick 'em when they're down
Kick 'em when they're up, kick 'em when they're down
Kick 'em when they're up, kick 'em all around

We got the bubbleheaded bleach-blonde, comes on at 5
She can tell you about the plane crash with a gleam in her eye
It's interesting when people die, give us dirty laundry

Can we film the operation? Is the head dead yet?
You know the boys in the newsroom got a running bet
Get the widow on the set, we need dirty laundry

You don't really need to find out what's going on
You don't really want to know just how far it's gone
Just leave well enough alone, keep your dirty laundry

Kick 'em when they're up, kick 'em when they're down
Kick 'em when they're up, kick 'em when they're down
Kick 'em when they're up, kick 'em when they're down
Kick 'em when they're stiff, kick 'em all around

Dirty little secrets, dirty little lies
We got our dirty little fingers in everybody's pie
Love to cut you down to size, we love dirty laundry

We can do the innuendo, we can dance and sing
When it's said and done, we haven't told you a thing
We all know that crap is king, give us dirty laundry

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Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:47 PM

From : Joe R <joer@ebrsi.com>
Sent : Monday, March 1, 2004 9:15 PM
To : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : Re: Request....

Dan,

You sent that just in time, tomorrow is recycle day!

Joe

Dan Rassier wrote:

> Hey ya'll:
>
> The lawyer I talked to has urged me to keep all Tapes of the TV broadcasts and all paper reports about the case whether it involves me or not. So please just save the Tribune/Pioneer Press Papers that have things in them.
>
> Thanks!
>
> dano

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Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:45 PM

From : Joe Rassier <joer@ebrsi.com>
Reply-To : joer@ebrsi.com
Sent : Wednesday, February 25, 2004 1:53 PM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : Hey Doc!

Hi Dan,

I hope you get this note and are doing okay?

I know everyone is telling you what to do.... However, if you do get to the point where you decide you're going to get a lawyer, consider getting a "civil lawyer" rather than a "criminal lawyer".

Civil Litigation

Attorneys in this practice area typically represent individuals who are involved in a non-criminal court case. Civil litigation can also encompass a situation where an individual sues a business (like Fox9). An example of a civil suit that could involve individuals is DEFAMATION.

I believe this is applicable because you have not been charged and are unlikely to be charged (e.g. you don't need a criminal lawyer at this point). I'm dead serious, I would sue Fox9.

Let us know how you're doing.

Dig it!
Joe

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Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:53 PM

From : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Sent : Wednesday, February 25, 2004 2:28 PM
To : joer@ebrsi.com
CC : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : RE: Hey Doc!

Hey Joe:

Thanks for you note.... I talked to a lawyer this morning who knows my principal real well.
So the word is silence. Basically no comment.

As far as the channel 9 lawsuit....yeah....I plan on doing something with that.
But I've been told to wait a few weeks or things could get hotter if that is possible.

The Tribune was real nice via email with me in respecting my silence. They seem to understand my situation.

I guess WCCO was out by the farm and Mom/Dad told them to hit the road or whatever.
Nancy was talking to me about channel 11 being good to talk to...but I told her no way.

So the word is silence.
And tonight on leaving school, I 'll be using a disguise.
I wish I had a Buddy Rich Mask. I could walk out with a drum/bottle of beer/and a couple of sticks.

Anyway....thanks for the advice. I know you may have thought I didn't listen to you on Sunday but I did Joe. But I just got completely faked out on Monday Morning.....I kicked myself lots about it but realize now after seeing the a video cut of it.....they had me staked out and were going to get me no matter what.

Tonight I'll be more careful.
later
dano

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Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:48 PM

From : Joe R <joer@ebrsi.com>
Sent : Monday, March 1, 2004 9:56 PM
To : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : Re: Request....

I read the story on the website. I never heard of the suicide suspect. They are just going for ratings aren't they!

Dig it!

Joe

Dan Rassier wrote:

> thanks a lot Joe.
>
> I just watched the channel 9 report here Monday night.....the 2nd of March.
>
> What a pile of useless information basically.....
>
> later
> dano

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Friday, March 5, 2004 3:38 PM

From : Joe R <joer@ebrsi.com>
Sent : Monday, March 1, 2004 10:40 PM
To : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : Re: Request....

You forgot the sadistic towel rituals and torture!

Joe

Dan Rassier wrote:

> yeah Joe...
>
> I never heard about lots of that stuff.
> They are striving to come with anything new whether it is fact or fiction....just so they come up with it first. I'm surprised
> didn't come up with the idea that I'm responsible for thousands of chickens heading to their death. I came in the dark of
> night and grabbed them away from their friends and crated them off to some far away torture death chamber. No tears -
> remorse. Just cold blooded killing with no 2nd thoughts. And then they would say....what really makes this case interesti
> that this potential suspect worked at Kentucky Fried Chicken for goodness sake! And he was trained in by an older brothe
> apparently taught him everything he knew about cooking up chicken. Tomorrow night we talk to the owners of KFC in St.
> to gain some sort of understanding for such behavior. And late breaking news - not yet seen or heard, is that the potentia
> suspect worked at Landy Meat Packing Plant with another older brother. The family is
> filled with this odd type of history! Join us for all the answers.
>
> I better stop.....this might be bugged.
>
> And oh yes, historical records indicate, as young boys, their Mom/Dad trained them in the art
> of butching chickens. We rest our case. Guility.
>
> dano

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Know Your Enemy

3/2/2004

We surveyed 800 sex offenders in Minnesota's prisons.. those in for first degree criminal sexual conduct.. the worst of the worst. FOX 9 wanted to know what made them offend and what could keep them from doing it again. To find those answers the Fox 9 Investigators sought out the real experts... we went behind prison bars to ask the sexual predators themselves.

But first, we developed a detailed, comprehensive, one of a kind survey. We asked predators everything from what they look for in a victim, to what might've stopped them. We then delivered the survey to the 800 sex offenders We got ten percent of the survey's back. The answers, are at times chilling and chilling.

Offender Answer: "It was more like i stole candy out of a store."))

Offender Answer: "There is a certain look in children."

Offender Answer: "I felt that if i did not force them to have sex with me it would be alright."

65 years old and nearly deaf, Roger Kolb looks like he could be someone's grandfather. Roger Kolb: "I pulled a knife on her, forced her to have oral sex." He's also a three time sex offender. Roger Kolb: "I saw a door open and a lady going back and forth and i assume she was doing her laundry." His latest victim was a vulnerable adult. Roger Kolb: "I would hang around bus stops and laundromats." Tom: 'Why would you that?' Roger Kolb: "Looking for victims."

Like 64 percent of the sex offenders we surveyed, no planning went into his attacks. They were spontaneous crimes of opportunity. Tom Lyden: "Would you stalk your victims, would you study them? Roger Kolb: no Tom: It was random.

Half the sex offenders told us they made no attempt to control their impulses. half said they tried. Some sought help from counselors, others solace in drugs and alcohol. Some tried ignoring the thoughts. one prayed. The anger Roger Kolb had towards women simply simmered for years. Roger Kolb: "I had been asked 20 years before this last time. I thought I had it licked then. But I found out whenever I get angry I can't take it out on innocent women."))

Anonymous Sex Abuser: "My victim would come from a broken home. usually they lived with their mom." A second man we interviewed for this story, wants to remain anonymous, is a different type of sex offender altogether. He's had 9 separate victims, all young boys, all from broken homes. Anonymous Sex Abuser: They were all so deprived of a lot of things. they were barely making it out there. the parents were struggling to provided for them and that's where what i could provide, i did that was part of my grooming process."

For child molesters the so-called grooming process begins when they befriend a victim, then lowering the child's inhibitions about sex and physical contact. Anonymous Sex Abuser: "It was kind of like a game.. a drawing game.. fully clothed draw on their legs, their backs.. then it was slowly but surely moving in touching them in certain spots.

Of the sex offenders we surveyed, 66 percent were just like him. Known to their victims as friends of the family, neighbors, in one case a fellow parishioner. 26 percent victimized immediate family members. Only 18 percent were total strangers.

What types of victims were they looking for? 21 percent said an adult female. But children were preferred by the majority. 24 percent said a male child. 31 percent a female child.

For so many of the child molesters, their method of operation is strictly psychological. Anonymous Sex Abuser: "Even with my arrest, when they interviewed my victim he didn't want to say nothing and it wasn't out of fear for me, physically harm, I never used force. he didn't want me locked away."

In the mind of the sex offender this behavior becomes acceptable, they tell us, they'll tell themselves it's not a crime. A few said they thought they were showing children love and affection. Or teaching them about sex. Our sex offenders believe a suspicious mind is the best way to deter an attack.

Anonymous Sex Abuser: "Anybody that spends a lot of time around the family and especially singling out one particular, if they have multiple kids, one particular kid, showing a lot of interest in that one kid."

70 percent believe if the victim would've fought back, even just saying no, that might've stopped the assault. In fact, the majority of sex offenders surveyed, 62 percent, never had to physically harm their victim to gain compliance.

Tom Lyden: "What would you tell women or girls, who want to avoid being attacked by a man like you?" Roger Kolb: "Be aware of your surroundings, if you're alone be aware and suspicious of anyone following you.

What should surprise no one, is how many of our sex offenders say they were abused themselves, and continued the cycle. Anonymous Sex Abuser: "I was sexually abused also from the age of 7 to 12, like I say that has noting to do with why I did it." That was also the case with Roger Kolb. He was molested by a relative when he was seven, then a few years later, turned around and molested his three year old sister. Roger Kolb: "I miss my sister very much I loved her very much, and when I go to her grave I'm going to ask her for her forgiveness." Tom Lyden: "Do you believe that's how it all started for you with your sister?' Roger Kolb: "Yes. I think so."

But guilt is not a universal phenomenon among sex offenders. 75 percent told us they think about the impact on their victim. and while a few said they felt guilty immediately after the crime. others said it was only after treatment.

A startling 87 percent have never completed sex offender treatment. Just like Alphonso Rodriguez, the prime suspect in the Dru Sjodin case. Rodrgiguez began treatment, then dropped out. Tom Lyden: You knew Alfondzo Rodriguez in prison. what was he like?' Roger Kolb: "I knew the man who was the possible suspect. I knew him in Moose Lake, nicest guy you could meet. I think he had a lot of anger pent up

inside of him." Tom Lyden: "One of the things they said was he was too old to be a sex offender again?" Roger Kolb: "That's a myth because I was older than him he was 50 when he got out and I was 62 when I committed my last one, I'll be 66 this April. if your saying to old, well that's not true, I just proved that wrong."

And that may be the most unsettling aspect of our survey. The desire of sex offenders to prove us wrong. over and over again. To steal our sense of security, by striking randomly when an opportunity presents itself. Or gain our trust, the trust of our children, only to betray it.

Anonymous Sex Abuser: "Ever since I came in here I was soul searching in myself as someone who should be locked away the rest of their life."

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Wetterling 911 call

3/1/2004

They're the words that launched the search for Jacob Wetterling and some of them come from his 10 year old brother Trevor. A year after the abduction, he talked about how a man asked them their ages and told them to run into the woods or else he would shoot them. The FOX 9 Investigators have obtained the seven page 911 transcript of that first call made on October 22, 1989. The call comes from a neighbor.

Merlin Jerzak says "I'm right door, my neighbors at my neighbors, the Jerry Wetterling family. Some of the boys went down to Tom Thumb to pick up a movie and on their way back someone stopped them and ah, we believe that they have one of the boys because the, one of the boys did not come back with them."

Dispatcher: "Okay, were you, were they picked up in a vehicle?"

Jerzak: "Just a second I'll ask the boys was there a vehicle, ah, this person appeared ah, on the road when they were bicycling back home."

Dispatcher: "Okay, did they see the indvidual at all?"

Jerzak (talking to the boys): "Did they see the individual at all? He had a mask on."

The dispatcher then gets a rough second hand description of the suspect. A description of the red hockey jacket Jacob was wearing with police department inscribed on the back. The call is confusing. The dispatcher is simultaneously dispatching squad cars, trying to figure out where the abduction occured on the rural stretch of road and questions.

Dispatcher: "Give me some information on this guy with the mask, I want color, anything those kids can remember?"

That's when Jacob's brother, Trevor, has calmed down enough to get on the phone.

Dispatcher: "I want you to give me anything you, you can recall about this male party that approached you guys, okay?"

Trevor: "Well he was, he was like sorta, he was like a man, sort of big. He had like a, it looked sort of like nylon things as a mask."

The dispatcher asks about the location of Jacob's bike. Trevor doesn't know what happened to it.

Trevor: "'Cuz we have to just like run, run off into the woods."

Dispatcher: Did the guy have a deep voice? Anything like that you can remember?"

Trevor: "Yes, did he have like a deep voice or whatever? Seemed like he had a cold sort of."

Dispatcher: "Trevor, did you see the gun the individual had?"

Trevor: "Um, we couldn't really see it, but we just, we sort of saw it."

Dispatcher: "Okay, did he threaten you?"

Trevor: "Mn, what?"

Before Trevor can answer, the officers have arrived at the Wetterling home. The dispatcher ends the call telling them they'll be sending more officers and dogs to begin the search. Unknown to anyone at the time, the heartbreaking search for Jacob Wetterling, is just the beginning.

In hindsight, the most important detail from this transcript may be what's not described. The boys never saw a car that night. The man who covered his face may have been someone the boys would recognize, a big man with a congested voice, someone on foot, someone local.

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Jacob Wetterling Case

2/27/2004

An investigator who worked the Jacob Wetterling case 14 and a half years ago is not giving up on the theory the 11-year-old was taken by someone in a car.

FOX 9 news first reported new investigators are looking at local suspects from the neighborhood. That happened after the innocent driver of a car spotted in the area that night finally came forward.

A now-retired detective told FOX 9 on Friday there may have been another car at the scene and Jacob's footprints appear to have led to the tire tracks of a parked car.

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Wetterling Investigation

3/1/2004

The FOX 9 investigators continue to break news in the Jacob Wetterling case. We first revealed a turn in the investigation. For nearly 15 years, police worked off the theory that 11 year old Jacob was kidnapped by a man in a car.

Last week we told you police shifted their attention away from the car's tire tracks. Now, they're focusing on an abductor on foot. That revelation has turned the investigation inside out, zeroing in on people who live near the crime scene.

A retired investigator who worked the case said the change of focus is a big deal. It may force officers working the case now to take another look at early suspects who were cleared partly based on those tire tracks.

One such possible suspect was a man who committed suicide shortly after he was questioned in jacob's abduction. Among boxes and boxes of evidence in the case, a set of tires.

For almost 15 years investigators spent a lot of time comparing the actual tires of the cars of possible suspects to the tire tracks left at the scene.

"We put a lot of effort into those tires," said a retired investigator who did not want to be identified.

"If the tires matched, you had to take a closer look at the guy. If they bought new tires after Jacob disappeared, you really had to look at that."

But what bothers the former detective now is the suspects who were ruled out in part because the tires of their cars didn't match the tracks at the abduction site.

Last week the FOX 9 Investigators talked to the man police now believe left those tire tracks. He is not a suspect, but drove to the abduction site after hearing about it on the scanner. He came forward after 14 years.

"I was very afraid to come forward. I knew they were looking for somebody. I didn't want to even be put in that position of being a suspect. I was trying to live my life and go on."

Current Wetterling investigators say they don't believe any promising suspect was ruled out years ago just because his tires didn't match the tracks left behind.

But the retired detective is bothered by one particular suspect.

The suspect was a known pedophile who lived in St. Cloud.

The retired detective recalls that police questioned him within days of the abduction. Within days of being questioned, the suspect committed suicide with a pistol. The boys with Jacob that night said the abductor had a gun.

Those facts alone would make a suspect extremely interesting to police. But the retired detective recalls investigators losing interest for a couple of reasons. The gun the man used to kill himself was a different color than the boys described. And the tires on the man's vehicle didn't match the tracks left at the scene.

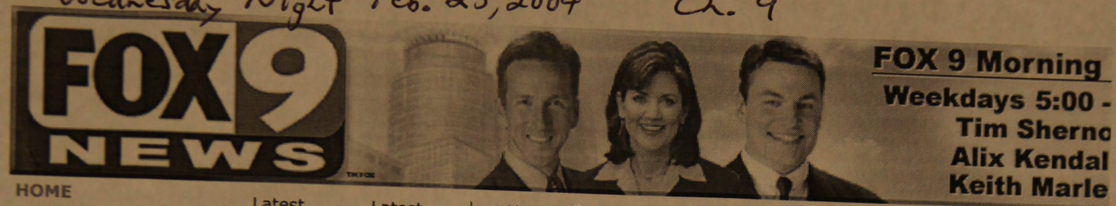
There's another thing: with all the national attention that the abduction and search received, with all the passionate pleas from Jacob's parents, police have always marvelled that who ever did it never slipped up and told anyone. 14 and a half years is a long time to keep a secret.

"We had 40 good investigators," the retired detective told FOX 9 Investigators. "A boy disappers and we never hear another thing. what makes more sense than a person kills himself and the secret is buried with him."

Patty Wetterling is out of town so we were unable to talk with her about this development.

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Wednesday Night Feb. 25, 2004 Ch. 9



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Print Story

Wetterlings Meet with Investigators

Monday night, Fox 9 revealed flaws in the original search for the 11 year old and we showed why detectives are moving in a different direction.

Authorities say they're no longer focusing on a vehicle reported near where the eleven-year-old was taken. They're now looking at the possibility that the kidnapper might have been on foot. Sheriff John Sanner also says there's a real possibility that the abductor lived in the area of the abduction. Jacob was taken by a man while riding bicycle with his younger brother and a friend on a gravel road about a quarter-mile from the Wetterlings' house outside St. Joseph. Jacob has not been seen since.

After Wednesday's meeting, Patty Wetterling said the new development about her son's case is significant and she sensed a "renewed energy" in investigators working the 14-year-old mystery.

She added authorities "have reason to apply pressure, but not too much pressure" to a local man who has been interviewed by investigators.

Wetterling said she has no "gut feeling" whether the man who took Jacob lived nearby or far away. But, she said it is hard for her and others in St. Joseph to even consider that someone local might be involved.

"Who wants to think it could be somebody you know?" she said.

2/25/2004

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Jacob Wetterling Case

2/24/2004

Jacob Wetterling's mother says she's confused by recent developments in his disappearance.

Monday night, Fox 9 revealed flaws in the original search for the 11 year old and we showed why detectives are moving in a different direction.

Fox 9 Investigator Trish Van Pilsum broke the story.. and talked with Patty Wetterling.

First and foremost, Patty is thrilled new investigators assigned to the case are working very hard to find her son and taking a fresh look at information that appears to have been overlooked.

The Fox 9 Investigators have learned investigators now think Jacob may have been kidnapped by someone on foot who lived in St. Joseph. That's because a new witness has come forward and helped them rule out a suspicious car someone saw in the area that night.

Until now, they believed someone in a car took Jacob. Patty Wetterling is confused, "Maybe there were two cars. It's hard for me to throw out something we've lived as a fact for 14 and a half years."

Last night, we talked to the man now at the center of the investigation. He deinies any involvement in the kidnapping. 14 years ago police did not search his house, his car or his property soon enough.

Because of that, they're now having trouble either linking him to the abduction or clearing him.

Wetterling isn't blaming investigators, "I can't fault anything they did. I think they did a phenomal job considering the info and the resources they had at the time, but we've learned we're better now."

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Monday Night Feb. 23, 2004 Channel 9



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Print Story

Man Questioned in Wetterling Case

Fox 9 Exclusive: It's been nearly 15 years since Jacob Wetterling vanished near his St. Joseph home. And he's the man who says he has recently become a "suspect" in the Wetterling Investigation. Stearns County authorities don't use the word. That's because of gaps early in the investigation. They haven't been able to link him to the crime or rule the man out.

Other Stories

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FOX 9 News at 9



Jeff Passolt



Robyne Robinson

Trish Van Pilsum: "Did you have anything to do with Jacob's disappearance?" The Man: "I didn't have anything to do with it." FOX 9 won't identify this man because he hasn't been arrested or charged. He lives near the abduction site. He was home alone on October 22, 1989. There is no one to confirm his whereabouts. Police questioned him the day after the abduction. More as a witness than a possible suspect. The Man: "They needed to check me out. They said they had to check me out."

They searched his car at work but not until later in the day. The Man "That morning when I left, I had a car full of..." Trish Van Pilsum: "Boxes. Big boxes." The Man: "..and they never looked in my car. I mean it was that bad." They searched his property, too. But not until five days later. The Man: "They didn't come in the house that night. It could have been over with."

Investigators, new to the case, agree important things were over looked in the early days of the search. That there were just too many people and too many agencies involved.

More than 14 years passed. Why the renewed interest in this man now? The FOX 9 Investigators have learned that investigators now doubt one of the main theories of Jacob Wetterling's disappearance. That theory: While Jacob, his brother and a friend walked their bikes and scooter home from a convenience store, somebody got out of a car, grabbed Jacob. and fled in his car.

Stearns County investigators are steering away from the car.. leaving their suspect on foot. and local. That fits with the other boys said.. This is a copy of a statement Jacob's best friend Aaron gave police. Statement: "Was there any vehicles or anything around at this point that you observed? uh uh. Not that we could see."

How did the car come into play. Remember the witness turned possible suspect? It was his account that placed a car at the scene that night. He said it turned around a sped away about the time jacob disappeared.

The FOX 9 Investigators also have learned there was a car nearby that night. We found the driver. He is not a suspect.

Kevin "It's sad. It chokes me up. but can I do. what could I have done." He's a man in the wrong place at the wrong time. Kevin: I never came forward. I figured I didn't have to.

Kevin was 21 at the time. He heard something on the scanner. Saw a police car speed by his house. Curious, he tried to follow the squad. He was there so fast there was no police crime scene tape around the bikes and scooter yet. He drove away and told a police officer what he'd seen.

Kevin : "He said, yeh we know all about that. I know about the bikes. and that was it. It was like I was bothering. him. We backed out and left and that was it." Trish Van Pilsum: "He didn't take your name or phone number." Kevin "He didn't take my name. Trish Van Pilsum: "He didn't ask, did you see a man lurking around.? Kevin: "Didn't ask me a thing."

Nor, it appears, did the officer pass along his conversation with Kevin to investigators. It strikes the new investigators now working on the case 14 years later as strange. It also strikes them as a huge problem. In fact, investigators didn't know about Kevin at all until this October. This came about because he met a federal marshal at a party who urged Kevin to talk to the lead investigator of the Wetterling investigation.

Kevin: He was really shocked. Cause after I told him who I talked to, what I seen, he couldn't believe he didn't know about me. In reality, I could have been the kidnapper and they never would have found me."

In fact of the thousands and thousands of pages of leads, none places Kevin at the scene around the time of the kidnapping. A source close to the case said they wasted 14 years looking for him.

Trish Van Pilsum: "Kevin do you think, boy if my information didn't get passed along, what else was missed?" Kevin: "Yes. Who else knows something about the case they might not think was crucial." Kevin even heard the police were trying to track down the car using tire tracks. Kevin: I was scared. i got really scared.

Kevin expected police to come to him. they never did. Trish Van Pilsum: "So if they couldn't find you, what were the odds that they could find the kidnapper." Kevin: "Exactly. I think about that all the time. It's sad. A young kid like that you know 14 years."

Why didn't he go to the police? He figured he'd gotten to the scene after everything was over. He doubted he had anything to add. And he didn't want to get caught up in the widening net of the Wetterling search. Kevin: "I knew they were looking for someone and I didn't want to be put in the position of being a suspect." Now investigators believe the

car is accounted for. The investigation narrows to a small area surrounding the abduction scene. And, specifically on one man. One of Jacob Wetterling's neighbors. The Man: I'm not worried. I'm thinking they're going to figure out I couldn't.. I wouldn't have been able to do something like that." Investigators questioned him as recently as two weeks ago, February 7th. They took a sample of his DNA. Five days later they questions his family and searched him computer files at home.

The Man: "I just have to hope they make sense out of it and not wreck my life." Remember he is the witness who placed a car at the scene. Later that night he heard a commotion. It was the search and it was in his yard. He went back to bed.

Trish Van Pilsum: "Why would you go to bed when a kid had just disappeared." The Man: "I wanted to get some sleep . I wasn't going to waste my time."

The man FOX 9 talked with may never be connected with the Jacob Wetterling kidnapping case.

2/23/2004

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Last update: May 7, 2004 at 6:54 AM

Assault victim hopes his story will lead to break in Wetterling case

Richard Meryhew, Star Tribune
May 7, 2004JACOB0507

-ADVERTISEMENT-



A Twin Cities TV station is revisiting an angle in the Jacob Wetterling abduction that investigators pursued and detailed a few weeks after the 11-year-old boy from St. Joseph, Minn., disappeared in October 1989.

In broadcast interviews Wednesday and Thursday with KARE-TV, Channel 11, a man formerly of Cold Spring, Minn., spoke publicly of his childhood abduction and sexual assault 10 months before Jacob disappeared in hopes that it would lead to a break in the case.

The man, who was identified only by his first name -- Jared -- was 12 and living in Cold Spring when he was abducted and sexually assaulted in January 1989. He said he believes the man who attacked him also may have kidnapped Jacob, who lived about 10 miles from Cold Spring.

Neither case has been solved.

Many of the details of Jared's abduction were reported in December 1989, when investigators said publicly that they considered the man

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involved in Jared's kidnapping to be a prime suspect in the Wetterling case.

"Nothing he is saying on TV is anything we didn't already know," Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner said Thursday. "The only benefit I see in what he's doing is rejuvenating interest in a very old case."

Authorities said in 1989 that Jared told them that his assailant was a white man, 40 to 50 years old, who was wearing military-style fatigues and a baseball cap. Authorities also released a composite sketch of the man as a suspect in both abductions.

Sanner said Thursday that authorities have never been able to determine whether the same man abducted both boys.

"Very early on in the investigation, investigators looked back at that Cold Spring case and drew comparisons," he said. "There were a number of similarities, and there were some remarkable differences."

Jared told police in 1989 and more recently told KARE-11, that he was walking home with friends in January 1989 when a man pulled up alongside him, asked for directions, grabbed him and put him in the car.

Jared said the man told him he had a gun, then drove to a remote area where he sexually assaulted him. When the man released Jared, he told the boy to run from the car and not look back or he would shoot.

Jacob was abducted Oct. 22, 1989, as he, his brother Trevor, and friend, Aaron Larson, rode their bikes home from a convenience store in rural St. Joseph.

Richard Meryhew is at richm@startribune.com.

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5890-1699 Ex 69 SML

Times
May 6, 2004

Sheriff cautious on abduction links
By Kelly Scott

The possibility of a connection between the 1989 abduction of Jacob Wetterling and another abduction about 10 months earlier in Cold Spring is less promising than once thought, the Stearns County sheriff said.

In the earlier case, a 12-year-old boy was abducted, sexually assaulted and left in a rural ditch. It had some similarities to the Wetterling case, which involved an 11-year-old boy being taken by a masked gunman, Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner said.

Whether a link existed between those two cases has been investigated since Wetterling was taken in October 1989, he said.

Information revealed last fall led investigators to rule out a long-sought car driver in the case. It also led investigators to believe any link between the two unsolved cases is weaker than once thought because they now believe Wetterling's abductor could have been on foot when he snatched the boy, Sanner said.

"It strengthened the likelihood that they aren't related," Sanner said.

The victim in the Cold Spring abduction and sexual assault declined to talk to the Times for a story but did talk on camera to Twin Cities television station KARE, identified only as Jared. The story aired Wednesday night, identifying links the victim sees between his case and Wetterling's abduction.

Times policy typically is to not name victims of sexual assault unless the victim wants to be named publicly. Even though the victim appeared on television, he said he fears for his safety and that of his family because his abductor was never caught.

Sanner said authorities ran parallel investigations into the Cold Spring case and the Wetterling abduction. Investigators released a composite sketch of the man wanted in connection with the Cold Spring case in December 1989. Investigators said then that they wanted to talk to the man in connection with the Wetterling case, too. The sketch was the ninth released after Wetterling was taken.

"The cases are similar, and we're not ruling it out," Sanner said. "But there are significant differences, too."

The Cold Spring case involved a 12-year-old boy who was pulled into a car about 9:45 p.m. on Jan. 13, 1989, as he walked home from ice skating. The driver of a dark-blue car stopped to ask the boy directions before grabbing him.

The man told the boy he had a gun, but the boy never saw one. He took the boy to a rural area north of Richmond and sexually assaulted him. The driver then pushed the boy from the car into a ditch.

At the time, the boy described his attacker as a man wearing military fatigues and black boots, possibly military boots. The abductor had husky shoulders and a low-pitched, raspy voice.

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Wetterling was taken about 9:15 p.m Oct. 22, 1989, from 91st Avenue, just southeast of St. Joseph. He was riding his bike home with his brother and a friend when a masked gunman approached them.

The gunman came out of a ditch or a side road and told the boys to throw their bikes into the ditch and lie on the ground. He asked the boys' ages and then told the other two to run. Jacob Wetterling has never been found.

The boys in the Wetterling case described the kidnapper as wearing dark clothing and black boots. The man also was described as having a raspy voice.

Sanner said detectives have continued investigations into both cases. Deputies took people in for questioning in connection with the Cold Spring case but never arrested anyone, Sanner said.

The investigation into the Wetterling case, which has been called one of the largest criminal investigations in Minnesota, took a twist with last fall's information. That forced investigators to refocus on suspects who couldn't be cleared immediately after the abduction.

St. Cloud Times Online Homepage

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Message

Thursday, March 25, 2004 3:12 PM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>

Subject: ?

To: dan rassier

Any new developments with you?

Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com

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msn Hotmail®

drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Friday, March 26, 2004 12:41 PM

From : dan rassier <rassierd@rocori.k12.mn.us>
Sent : Friday, March 26, 2004 8:42 AM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : Jill - Tribune

Hi Jill:

Well, I can't lie can I? I do know the police investigators can make up stories and lie about items to get different angles on stories from people.

So---A few things have happened I would rather not bring up. The reality of the situation has hit home with me. That is I can't prove I did it and I can't prove I didn't do it. Unless this case is solved, I will always be some sort of suspect. So you might say I have renewed interest in seeing this case solved and filed.

Later
Dan

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Message

Friday, March 26, 2004 9:37 AM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>
Subject: Re: ?
To: dan rassier

Thanks for your reply. I'm sure it's a terrible situation to be in. Let
me know if you want to talk. We have not heard anything further from law
enforcement.

Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com

>>> "dan rassier" <rassierd@rocori.k12.mn.us> 03/26/04 08:39AM >>>
Hi Jill:

Well, I can't lie can I? I do know the police investigators can make up stories and lie about items to get different angles on stories
from people.

So---A few things have happened I would rather not bring up. The reality of the situation has hit home with me. That is I can't
prove
I did it and I can't prove I didn't do it. Unless this case is solved,
I
will always be some sort of suspect. So you might say I have renewed
interest in seeing this case solved and filed.

Later
Dan

"Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com> writes:

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Message

Thursday, February 26, 2004 12:55 PM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>
Subject: Hi Dan,
To: dan rassier

Hi Dan,

I'm a reporter here at the Strib and I'll be your contact if anything arises. My colleague, Dan Browning, is working on a different project.

Obviously, there's a lot going on in which you've become involved. We've tried to respect the privacy of you and your family as much as possible given these pressure-filled circumstances. I'd like to continue this "minimally invasive" approach, and hope it's OK to reach you at this email address. If not, let me know how you'd prefer any contact.

I am very concerned about the direction the investigation has taken. So
far, it's unclear to me what the justification is for this. I'd like to talk with you more about this at some point - on or off the record. Let me know if this is a possibility or when it might be. In the meantime, if you have any questions, you can reach me at
jburcum@startribune.com
or at the phone numbers listed below.

Thanks,
Jill

Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com

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Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com
>>> "dan rassier" <rassierd@rocori.k12.mn.us> 02/26/04 15:46 PM >>>
Hi Jill:

School is extremely busy right now and I have no idea what has developed
today. Thank you for respecting my family. Right now,
just please stay away from my family's farm. I'm fine considering the situation, but my parents are very tired and
hurt.

Later....

Sincerely
Dan Rassier

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Message

Thursday, February 26, 2004 4:59 PM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>
Subject: Re: Hi Dan
To: dan rassier

There was no briefing, as far as I know. The Stearns County Sheriff's office sent out a press release to MN news media by fax this morning around 10:30 a.m. Basically, it said nothing new ... investigators are going away from the idea that someone drove off with Jacob in a car. They also talked about questioning a narrowed group of individuals. Then
they reiterated the plea for anyone with info about the abduction to call authorities.

I'm at home right now. But when I'm back in the office tomorrow, I could
mail a copy to you.

Jill

Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com
>>> "dan rassier" <rassierd@rocori.k12.mn.us> 02/26/04 16:39 PM >>>
Hello Jill:

Can you tell me what has developed today with the "police" giving some
sort of briefing?

What was said?

Thanks!

Dan

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Message

Thursday, February 26, 2004 5:02 PM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>
Subject: here's the message I thought I sent
To: dan rassier

Thanks for your reply.I understand your concerns. We weren't at your farm yesterday or today. Nor do we have plans to go there at this time. We've also stayed away from your workplace out of consideration for your
professional life.

Keep me posted on how your schedule looks. I'm pretty flexible and can
arrange my day according to what best fits your needs.

Best,
Jill

Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com

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Message

Thursday, February 26, 2004 5:23 PM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>
Subject: Re: Hi Dan
To: dan rassier

Dan, I'll put a copy of the release in the mail tomorrow morning. Will send it to your home address unless I hear otherwise. Am signing off for
the night.

Best,
Jill

Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com
>>> "dan rassier" <rassierd@rocori.k12.mn.us> 02/26/04 17:19 PM >>>
Hello Jill:

Thank you! I would like to see what they actually put on paper.

Later-
Dan

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Message

Friday, February 27, 2004 10:40 AM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>
Subject: in the mail
To: dan rassier

Dan,
I sent a copy of the press release to you by mail this morning. You should get it Monday or Tuesday. Let me know if it doesn't arrive.

Jill

Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com

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Message

Tuesday, March 2, 2004 9:45 AM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>
Subject: press release
To: dan rassier

Dan,

Glad it arrived so quickly. Hope your parents have recovered from the media barrage last week.

Let me know if you'd like to follow up. I'd like to hear your take on events.

Best,
Jill

Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com

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Message

Tuesday, March 2, 2004 10:20 AM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>
Subject: question
To: dan rassier

Dan,
Have you hired a lawyer to represent you?

Jill

Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com

S89D-1699 Ex. 69 SMT

msn® Hotmail®

drassier@hotmail.com Printed: Friday, March 5, 2004 3:39 PM

From : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Sent : Tuesday, March 2, 2004 11:23 AM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : To Jill from Dan

Hi Jill:

In answering this, I'm trying to be me. That is-I'm not supposed to respond but you have won my trust so far and therefore....

I hope this is off the record. I know I have no control what happens to this. I can only trust you understand that if someday I do talk, you would want to have my trust.

I can't believe how short sighted Channel 9's Trish Van Pilsum was with me. Basically she was so desperate to be first with some story, she didn't care if she was wrong or right! What I am saying, she won the battle but lost the war! She lost all my trust for the really big story. What I found out was she seemed to believe any story I told her. And she went with it. I'm glad she doesn't work for the police??? She asked me so many questions and never once asked if I was telling her the truth. She didn't seemed to catch any contradictions. In other words, her investigation seems to be almost controlled by whatever sounds new and exciting for broadcast. The truth is not a requirement.

Anyway-back to your question about hiring a lawyer.
I've talked to several lawyers (Civil and Criminal)and
don't plan on hiring a lawyer unless I sue Channel 9 and/or others. The police checked me out 14 years ago and from the little I know about their new position, they had to check me out again. Channel 9 jumping me for 30 seconds of excitement has not spooked me into hiring a criminal lawyer.

My parents are doing better thank goodness.
Thanks for asking.

Later - I must run!

Dan

S890-1699 Ex. 69 8mt

Re: question

Logout
Desktop
Mailbox
Address Book
Calendar
Up One Level
Delete
New Message
Reply
Forward
History
Show Internet Header
Run Manual Rules
Run Receive Rules
Previous in Thread
Next in Thread
Previous Unread
Next Unread
About this Form

Message

Tuesday, March 2, 2004 12:10 PM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>
Subject: Re: question
To: dan rassier

Dan
Thanks your reply. The info you provided is just for background. I'm not writing a story. I'm just trying to keep the communication lines open during a difficult situation.

I'm sorry to hear of your experience with Channel 9. Not to put our broadcast brethren down, but sometimes their hastiness and stylistic treatment of information does a disservice to all involved--- sources and viewers. That said, they may not be entirely to blame. Perhaps the information that generated the first report could have been released in a better fashion.

What we're trying to do is make sense of a confusing situation, to get at the truth, as you said. That involves looking at the bigger picture and putting all the pieces together. It also involves listening to the internal quease factor that good reporters develop over time. Mine's going off on a number of things right now.

Any help that you can give to help us sort things out is appreciated. One follow-up question I had after your last note is whether there's a bigger development to come. Is this what you alluded to in your comments
about a "really big story" in the future? I'm not asking for details, just some sense of what to expect.

Thanks,
Jill

S890-1699 I+.69 8mF

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Friday, March 5, 2004 3:36 PM

From : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Sent : Wednesday, March 3, 2004 10:28 AM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : Note sent to Jill at Tribune

Good Morning Jill:

What I meant by "Really big story" was related to the idea that Channel 9 would "burn their bridges" with a key witness to what happened that night. I see no end to this story based on how the police investigators questioned me. Either they are pretending or they really are mixed up. If they are pretending, they may have something.

Can you explain your comment below?
"Perhaps the information that generated the first report could have been released in a better fashion."

thanks
Dan

S890-1699 It-69 Smt

Re: question

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New Message
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Show Internet Header
Run Manual Rules
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Previous in Thread
Next in Thread
Previous Unread
Next Unread
About this Form

Message

Wednesday, March 3, 2004 11:00 AM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>
Subject: Re: question
To: dan rassier

Dan,

When the investigation shifted to someone local after new info emerged
about the tire tracks, the cops should have put out a press release notifying all the media of the new strategy. Instead, they just gave it out to Fox 9. That created the media stampede and mass confusion you saw
last week.

Jill

S890-1699 Ex. 69 Smt

msn Hotmail®

drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Friday, March 5, 2004 3:36 PM

From : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Sent : Wednesday, March 3, 2004 11:18 AM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : Jill Tribune

Hi again Jill:

So do I have this right?

The police put out a press release only to channel 9 in the beginning. Would you have access to this press release? Of course, I'm curious if it actually listed Kevin Hamilton's name and how obvious was it that they were talking to me?

Thanks
Dan

589D-1699 Ex. 69 8m+

Re: question

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Mailbox
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Calendar
Up One Level
Delete
New Message
Reply
Forward
History
Show Internet Header
Run Manual Rules
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Previous Unread
Next Unread
About this Form

Message

Wednesday, March 3, 2004 11:44 AM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>
Subject: Re: question
To: dan rassier

Hi,

Nope. The police didn't put out a press release initially. What happened (and remember, this is hearsay) is that Trish was up doing a sweeps week piece on the video store clerk who last saw Jacob. She happened to ask if anything was new with the investigation. That's when
they mentioned the shift away from the vehicle.

You have a copy of the only press release the cops have put out. I don't know how Trish got Kevin's name or your name.

Jill 589D-1699 It. 69 Cmt

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Reply
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History
Show Internet Header
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Next in Thread
Previous Unread
Next Unread
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Message

Thursday, May 6, 2004 9:32 AM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>
Subject: Re: ?
To: dan rassier

I wondered the same thing. Channel 11 is trying to link a January 1989
abduction to what happened later that year. They've interviewed the kid
who survived. Law enforcement is saying there's nothing to connect the
two, but TV's hyping it like there is and saying authorities are the
closest they've ever been to figuring out what happened.

Jill

Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com

5890-1699 I-69 Smn

?

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History
Show Internet Header
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Run Receive Rules
Previous in Thread
Next in Thread
Previous Unread
Next Unread
About this Form

Message

Wednesday, May 5, 2004 1:52 PM -0600

From: "Jill Burcum" <jburcum@startribune.com>
Subject: ?
To: dan rassier

Have you seen the promos that Channel 11 is running? What do you make of
them?

Jill Burcum
Minneapolis Star Tribune
612-673-7846 office
612-280-5464 cell
jburcum@startribune.com

S890-1699 Jt. 69 8m+

msn® Hotmail®

drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Thursday, May 6, 2004 9:12 AM

From : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Sent : Wednesday, May 5, 2004 6:59 PM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : Jill copy 5/5/04

Hello Jill:

I haven't watched a TV in at least a month.
No one has said anything to me.

Is it anything to do with my situation?

Thanks
Dan

S890-1699 I4.69 8m

startribune.com

Last update:

Minnesota's missing: Terribly missed

Robert Franklin, Richard Meryhew, Jill Burcum and Chuck Haga
Star Tribune
Published 03/23/2004

They are still mothers and fathers.

Patty Wetterling still has Christmas presents saved for her son Jacob after he was abducted 14 years ago. Allan Sjodin still talks to his daughter, Dru, missing for four months, as he drives through the Red River Valley, looking for her in the wheat stubble.

More than nine months into the nightmare of 5-year-old LeeAnna's disappearance, Kaelin Warner still wakes at 3 a.m. and instinctively listens for the rhythmic breathing and rustlings of sleeping children. But she hears only one. There should be two.

Even as they search for their children and hope dims, even as months and then years pass, the relationship endures: "My child -- my child -- is missing."

There are haunting, heartbreaking similarities, but each family responds differently.

An anguished Brian Guimond presses police, college officials and students for information that might help him find his son Josh, or what caused his disappearance 16 months ago from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn. Guimond the father presses so hard that he's "scaring the students," an official says in an affidavit.



Patty Wetterling

Richard Sennott
Star Tribune

At a hearing Wednesday in Stearns County District Court, a judge will determine whether to extend for two years a restraining order that has temporarily banned Brian Guimond from campus without permission and a school escort.

He has been ordered not to shout, swear or call names, an indication of his intensity.

"I'm just trying to get to the bottom of my son's disappearance," Guimond says.

While not necessarily endorsing all his tactics, Patty Wetterling understands the depth of his passion.

"He's under a lot of stress," she said. "Especially with a missing adult, a lot of pressure is put on the family to keep the interest going. That's all understandable and reasonable.

"Some of the challenges have been his arguments with law enforcement. It's difficult, because on the one hand they are the only people you've got to help find your son. But if you don't feel like they've done their job, then you are all on your own. And I think that's where Brian is."

Jerry Wetterling, Jacob's father, is also inclined to cut Guimond some slack.

S890-1699 Ex. 69 ORM

"The thing with Brian, he's kind of all alone in this," he said. "Josh is his only child. His life is absolutely torn upside down, and I know absolutely what that is all about.

"I really feel for him -- that isolation and desperation. Whatever reason, he's justified just because you're just reaching for straws, you know. You've got to do what you think you've got to do to give yourself some peace of mind and find your loved one."

The school's restraining order also makes sense, Patty Wetterling said, because it "is putting some boundaries back" in Brian Guimond's life.

"Just because you have a missing child doesn't mean you can do anything you want to do," she said. Jacob's abducter might be someone who still lives in the area, "but I can't go pounding on doors and say, 'What happened? Give it up!' I may want to, but I can't."

Many similarities

Some parents of missing children cope by withdrawing from old friends and routines, even as they find themselves thrust into roles more public than they ever thought themselves capable of: talking with FBI agents and governors, accepting the sympathy of strangers at restaurants, putting on makeup to appear on network TV news shows.

"When your kid is missing, you cannot sleep," said Carol Watson, executive director of Missing Children Minnesota. Her toddler son was missing for 13 months in the early 1980s. The memories are still searing. "When your child is missing, that's the most important thing in the world," she said. "It feels like the world should stop."

It isn't just parents who must find ways to cope with loss. JoAnn Nathe is a sister of Jodi Huisentruit, who disappeared in Mason City, Iowa, in 1995 on the way to work as a TV anchor.

Nathe still misses "my little sister, who I just adored." And she still struggles with trust.

"One time, I had my mom along at a concert and I couldn't find her anywhere," Nathe said. "I just assumed she had fallen or had a heart attack, and I went wild assuming what had happened.

"It's gotten better. But for a while, I'd just overreact, assuming the worst. If my daughter was real late coming home from something, I'd think, 'Oh, no.' "

Nathe, 53, teaches first grade in Sauk Centre, Minn. To get through bad times, to talk herself out of fear or depression, she becomes Jodi: always bubbly, ever the optimist.

"Just like this Dru Sjodin," she said. "When you see Dru Sjodin on TV, that's Jodi."

In Brainerd, Minn., Colleen Dalquist also couldn't help watching the family pictures of a smiling Dru Sjodin shown on TV as thousands of volunteers searched for her last year.

Sjodin was 22 when she went missing after leaving work at a Grand Forks mall. Erika would be 22, too, Colleen Dalquist thought. "We look at Dru's parents on TV and we feel so bad they have to be there, waiting and not knowing," she said.

S890-1699 It. 69 6mt

To friends who asked why she insisted on following the Sjodin case so closely, Dalquist said "I'm drawn to it. I'm drawn to them."

Months before, Colleen and Duane Dalquist had gone with investigators to watch as farm ponds were cleared of ice, drained and searched.

They had walked with searchers through fields and woods, and they had watched, holding hands, as divers went into a deep, water-filled mine pit where a 24-year-old suspect had told police he might have left Erika.

The divers couldn't find her. The suspect was released.

Duane Dalquist, a machinist who took a year off work after Erika disappeared so he could spend more time at home with their two sons, still gets the urge to go looking for his daughter.

Like Allan Sjodin, like Chris Warner (LeeAnna's father), like all the others, he returns from a fruitless search disappointed -- and relieved.

"I'm partly glad each time when [we] find nothing," he said. "But that tears you apart, too."

To find nothing is to not know.

"I think it's easier to deal with death than [with] not knowing," Kaelin Warner said.

Added Chris Warner: "I can deal with facts. I can't deal with not knowing."

The Warners have taken antidepressants to help them through the worst times, but there have been moments when nothing could keep the pain at bay. On a cold night last October, they had a disagreement that led to Kaelin driving off in a fit of anger -- striking Chris, who suffered minor scrapes. It was determined to be an accident, a consequence of the strain on the family.

"I think, honestly, that's the point at which we hit the bottom," Chris Warner said.

Sustaining hope

"In my heart, there is still some hope," Colleen Dalquist said in December, more than a year after her daughter disappeared and just three weeks after the Sjodin abduction.

"I look at the reality of the situation and my head tells me no. But until we find her and bring her home, there's a part of me that still expects to see her come through the door. We have to have that."

Jacob Wetterling had scribbled his name on the back wall of his closet. His mother found it years later when she was repainting the room for her daughter, Carmen. "There it was, almost like he was saying, 'Hi, Mom,' " Patty Wetterling said.

She didn't paint the closet. How would she explain that to Jacob?

Allan Sjodin is a shy, soft-spoken man who initially barricaded himself with his family after his

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daughter disappeared. Then -- realizing he needed the reach of their reports -- he gave his phone number to journalists and said, "You may have as much of me as you need."

Now he shuttles more than 300 miles weekly between his Twin Cities construction supervisor job and a temporary home in Grand Forks, a base for searches for Dru and for monitoring the judicial proceedings against her alleged kidnapper.

Allan Sjodin used to enjoy losing himself in rows of empty seats in center field at a Minnesota Twins baseball game. A while ago, a friend asked him how he was doing. Sjodin responded, "There are no more center fields for me."

But even as prosecutors detailed the ominous evidence they had collected -- a knife, blood spatters, DNA test results -- Sjodin, too, refused to surrender that last shred of hope that she is alive and waiting for him to find her.

"Certainly with everything that's happened, it's hard to hold on, but I do," he said. "I'm her father. And if your father abandons you ..."

Dr. Daniel Broughton, professor of pediatrics at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester and former board chairman of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said that hope is vital and shouldn't be dismissed as wishful thinking.

"As long as there is a chance that the child is alive, the parents really need to be supported in that," he said.

"We know that the first several hours are the most important, especially in stranger kidnappings." The longer a child is gone, the more ominous it becomes. "But more ominous does not mean quit."

Often, after "a huge outpouring of support," that support dwindles, Broughton said. But the trauma stays with the family. "It never, ever goes away."

Lisa Cheney, Josh Guimond's mother, stays busy with work and with the search for her son. She has talked with politicians and with other parents of missing children, including Patty Wetterling. She visits Web pages devoted to the missing. She distributes buttons and ribbons, and she keeps Christmas lights blazing on a big sign -- "Keep hope alive" -- outside her house.

"Every day you wonder, 'Am I doing enough or not?' Until they find him, you don't know."

Some parents wallow in work, Watson said. Others can't work at all. Some can't eat; some eat compulsively.

"It's very hard to try to carry on any kind of a life," she said. "You think you're coping, then all of a sudden you'll fall apart. It's very common for [marriages] to come to a crashing halt."

If it's an extended absence, "There will be a time when you will laugh or smile or you'll have a good day. Then you feel like you're betraying your child."

The writers are at jburcum@startribune.com

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Central Minnesota local news for 26 February, 2004

26 February, 2004

Sheriff's officials, Wetterlings discuss new twist

By Kelly Scott

kscott@stcloudtimes.com

PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION

ST. JOSEPH -- Patty and Jerry Wetterling met Wednesday with Stearns County sheriff's officials to discuss new turns in the investigation into the abduction of their son, Jacob.

"No one ever quit the search. Our goal is still to find Jacob," Wetterling said while sitting in a St. Joseph office of the Jacob Wetterling Foundation surrounded by books, photos and fliers about missing children.

"I've always wanted to find my son," she said.

The meeting came after authorities received new information that ruled out a long-sought vehicle that was seen at the Oct. 22, 1989, abduction site. That turned the focus of the case back to the areas nearest the site, and led authorities to believe that Jacob's kidnapper could have lived nearby and been on foot when he took the 11-year-old boy.

Jacob was riding his bike home with his brother and a friend when a masked man approached them on 91st Avenue in St. Joseph. The man flashed a gun and told the other two boys to run away or he'd shoot them. No one has found Jacob and no one has been arrested in connection with his abduction.

Sheriff's officials had discussed the turns with the family before Wednesday's meeting but reaffirmed them after recent media reports drew attention to the investigation. They also promised to continue working on the case, Wetterling said.

Last week, authorities interviewed a potential suspect who lived near the site. Authorities have cautioned that they've interviewed hundreds of potential suspects, and last week's interview wasn't unusual.

Sheriff John Sanner declined again Wednesday to talk about any potential suspects. And Wetterling said the family was given no details about any suspects in its meeting with sheriff's officials.

Wetterling said this isn't the first time a twist in the case has come to the family. Since the kidnapping more than 14 years ago, several times the family has heard of tips that Jacob was found or new suspects had come into play, she said.

The difference this time is that the turn in the case has been public instead of behind-the-scenes, she said.

"We've had a lot of significant leads about sightings," she said. "But you just can't throw all your eggs in one basket. I don't get a gut feeling or a sense that we're closer. But there's new energy in it."

She urged people to think back to when the abduction happened and report to authorities anything that could have seemed suspicious or strange. Since the driver of the long-sought vehicle came forward in October, she's hopeful that others who still have information about the abduction could do the same.

The hope that some resolution could come means a lot to people in the community, Wetterling said.

"This community is still hurting," Wetterling said. "And it'll continue to hurt until we get answers."

Story Chat

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Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:42 PM

From : Joseph D. Goble <jgoble69@macomb.com>
Sent : Thursday, February 19, 2004 8:06 PM
To : "Dan Rassier" <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : Re: Hi

Hi Dan,

SHIT!!! NO! I have not been contacted!
I'm gone a lot, but have a machine and Caller ID.
No calls from MN.
Sorry to hear about this shit AGAIN!

I've been fine, just busy! Busier than I've been in 9 years.
I'm doing 2 small colleges this year and supervising student
teachers too, so I'm gone quite a bit. One of the colleges is
building a Music Ed. program and I've been hired as a consultant
to aid them in the process. Right now, we're in the process of
narrowing down 34 applicants for a new position. MEETINGS!):

The Solo & Ensemble contest that I am responsible for is Saturday.
(1,700 entries) Once that is out of the way, I can begin to think
about other things I've neglected lately.

Thanks for the heads-up! Of course, if there is anything I can do
to help you out in this situation, I will! I know 'friends' often say
such things, but I think you know I mean it!

Warmest regards!

Joe
-----Original Message-----
From: Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
To: jgoble69@macomb.com <jgoble69@macomb.com>
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2004 11:45 AM
Subject: Hi

>Hi there Mr. President Goble:
>
>How's business? Looks like I would be needing the Gobal's Global Placement
>Services.
>That was funny back then huh? I still have the sign.....
>
>JOE-----------
>
>Have any police from Minnesota called you in the last month?
>
>You would not believe what has happened here in the last couple of weeks.
>
>They have new people on that Jacob Wetterling Kidnapping from 1989 and they
>are
>putting on the act that they think I did it???? It really doesn't bother
me
>but they are bothering my parents and friends about it. I thought they may
>have contacted you?
>
>Anyway....
>
>No...this is not bullshit.
>
>I never gave them your name but who knows if they found it
>somewhere....If they do call....sorry for the trouble.
>
>A couple of my brothers and I flew down to Austin, Texas and ran the
>Motorola Marathon this last weekend. Their weather was the pits but on
>marathon day....it was perfect! A good trip.
>
>Take care man--------

S890-1699 J4.69 Smt

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Friday, March 5, 2004 3:46 PM

From : Joseph D. Goble <jgoble69@macomb.com>
Sent : Monday, March 1, 2004 4:23 PM
To : "Dan Rassier" <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject : Re: Update on kidnapping

VP Rassier,

Hang in there Dan!!!
Sounds like we may need to move the Vice President
to an "undisclosed location" until this blows over.
What about the Secret Service?

Time to get a mean, junk-yard dog!

If they (media) step over the line, I believe I would sue their
asses off! This borders on harassment and is certainly
an invasion of your privacy. One piece of advice I might
offer is to document each of these incidents in a journal
with dates, times, locations, things said/done, and names of personnel (if
known).
This may seem stupid now, but should you have to take action
at some future point, you and your attorney will be glad you
kept a record.

Please keep me posted! I've been thinking about you all week
and will continue to worry about this situation and hope for a
speedy resolution.

President Goble
-----Original Message-----
From: Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
To: jgoble69@macomb.com <jgoble69@macomb.com>
Date: Monday, March 01, 2004 10:34 AM
Subject: Update on kidnapping

>
>Hey there Joe:
>
>Well....last week was about the worst week I think in my family's life.
>Things got bad with this one news crew secretly video taping me in the
>school parking lot and then doing that blur stuff on your voice/face. But
>everyone who knew me knew I was the guy. They cut out stuff and had me
>sounding like a real dope. (that wasn't hard huh?). They also had me
>sounding like I didn't care about the kid. Gee. Anyway....my parents on
>the farm were hassled by media and had to call 911. It is better now thank
>God. But both parents have gone through hell already it has only been one
>week of this shit. I have a lawyer or two lined up but....right now it is
>just sit cool and say nothing more ....not even to the police.
>
>I'm fine....it's my family/parents that kinda of lost it.
>Gee.
>
>Well...that is it for now.
>I should start on a book on this one....?
>
>dano
>
>>From: "Joseph D. Goble" <jgoble69@macomb.com>
>>To: "Dan Rassier" <drassier@hotmail.com>
>>Subject: Re: Hi

5890 - 1699 If 69 dm←

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:41 PM

From : <NRassier@aol.com>
Sent : Tuesday, February 17, 2004 12:36 PM
To : drassier@hotmail.com, rassierd@nt1.rocori.k12.mn.us
Subject : Bravo!

Hi Dan,

Wow, bravo to my awesome brothers on a terrific marathon! I guess I understand more about what you do with all of your free time if you are running marathons at 3.5 hours.....I wish you lived near me so you could help me train for a 10K or even a 5K for that matter. Perhaps when it gets warmer now I will train for a spring 5K.....

DAN...You must be careful w/the stupid FBI as I recall many years ago when they interviewed all of us, I found them to not be very intelligent about how they interviewed, nor the questions that they asked. They have never done their job correctly from the beginning of that Wetterling case and they just seem to look busy to cover their buts.....BUT, they are extremely incompetent at their procedures and as JOE agrees, you need a lawyer because many innocent people have been convicted because of bad investigations, etc. YOU MUST SUE for harassment and many other things they are trying to do....DAN.....you must take this seriously, they are desperate and DON"T believe anything they say anyone has said unless you hear it right from the mouth of that person.....like the letter from Patty W.....who is to say she wrote it...I would politely go to her house and express your concern about Jacob's case still unsolved...wow.....

I am for you 110% Dan.....just because we can be a bit of loners, they think we are strange, when all we want to do is set new goals like practicing and marathons.....

At Eden Prairie HS after having been very sick over the weekend.....stomach ache pains that left me keeled over in tears, but, now am fine....a bit of a break so off to just walk around for a bit....

Much love.....Nancy

5890-1699 It. 69 Snt

msn® Hotmail®

drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:43 PM

From : <NRassier@aol.com>
Sent : Monday, February 23, 2004 12:26 PM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : Re: February 20th, Nancyism

Hi Dan,

So, what did Sierra say about the whole experience? Her and Penny are almost rude to my dogs, you know how that makes me feel!

Hey...Dan, you should take Joe's advice and have a lawyer from the Cities...Joyce is personal friends w/quite a few. That way the lawyer could call and say to Ch. 9, if you have me on screen or my voice, I will sue....etc.

Hey brother, I sure think the world of you and love you dearly. Me and everyone else in the family KNOW you have NOTHING to do w/Jacob;s kidnapping; however, others don't know you. Please consider it Dan.

Lots of love,
n

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:40 PM

From : <NRassier@aol.com>
Sent : Tuesday, February 24, 2004 6:55 AM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : almost Tuesday

Dear Dan,

I was unable to see the whole broadcast of channel 9; however, I saw enough to once again realize that the investigation back in 1989 certainly was way off...why didn't they interview that guy driving around...???? Why isn't he a suspect? Why isn't Jim Thomas a suspect, why isn't everyone on Rassier road interviewed and followed? Whatever..... Dan, you should get your own DNA test done by a someone else to safeguard any tampering that they could do with any tests!

All I know is that in my heart, I am 100% sure that you had NOTHING to do with it Dan. I love you so much I would give my life for **you** as you have always been there for me. Like me, you too are quite a loner. I believe a lot of that comes from being a musician, practicing endless hours in the milkhouse/eggroom.....and liking oneself enough to be alone often. I also believe that losing a sister at our young age, left all of us with many unanswered questions. Thus, many hours in the practice room and being good students seemed to ease the pain of losing Betty. Betty had been like a guardian angel to me and I spent many years wondering why the Lord took her instead of me...it just never made sense to me.

There are not many things 100% in life except God's love for us and the love of one's family. Our parents are to us the best!!!! I believe they are the most amazing people even if they weren't our parents. Betty's birthday is approaching in March and I know that to Mom and Dad, she is always alive in their hearts as she is in mine as well. Sandy and I played many hours of "school" in the basement with Betty....and we put on many "plays" for her too. She would always patiently entertain us when Sandy visited the farm in the summer.

Dan, it is so cool how you have been such a positive influence on Rick's kids. Sierra glows when she talks about the times with Uncle Dan....

OK...pretty tired and my usual long Tuesday at Eden Prairie HS.....why don't you come down and hang out with me this coming weekend...my schedule is finally more open and I could take you to a good concert on Friday night.....Edina Pops Concert....very good actually....watch some movies, etc.

Calvin has some ear surgery again Tuesday, Greg will take him to the apt.

I love you Dan and I am here for you anytime...my cell phone # is 612-750-2095
Nancy

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:53 PM

From : <NRassier@aol.com>
Sent : Wednesday, February 25, 2004 11:40 AM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : Channel 11

Hi Dan,

I know this is a reporter you could trust and get a simple story with....CHANNEL 11 Allen at 612-201-3702 his cell phone number and he is on his way to St. Cloud now. Just think about it.....Channel 11 has far more integrity than ch. 9 and he would not film you unless you said so, etc. they will report on the meeting of Wetterling and sheriff today.

Lots of love and support
Nancy

S890-1699 Ex.69 fmt

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Tuesday, March 23, 2004 11:50 AM

From : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>

Sent : Wednesday, March 17, 2004 7:35 AM

To : joer@ebrsi.com, jsutphen@gustavus.edu, kerassier@comcast.net, Michael.rassier@nwa.com, nrassier@hotmail.com, RRassier@foley.k12.mn.us

CC : drassier@hotmail.com

Hey you ya'll:

Just a quick note....please don't bother Mom/Dad with it as they will just get upset and whatever with it...and we all don't want that.

But Channel 11 has been bugging people here at school ....and tried to trick Rick with no success..... but just a heads up!

Rick Kupchella was the news gossip guy. He tells my principal he is going to solve the case!

Please avoid him. Of course...it is up to you.
But from the wisdom of others, you'll get schoollllllled if you talk to him....

thanks
dan

drassier@hotmail.com

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Tuesday, March 23, 2004 9:43 AM

From : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Sent : Tuesday, March 23, 2004 9:43 AM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : Channel 11 tracking

From: "Rassier, Rick" <RRassier@foley.k12.mn.us>
To: 'Dan Rassier' <drassier@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: What went down?
Date: Tue, 16 Mar 2004 11:56:31 -0600

Dan... I tried to call you last night. Rick Kupcella called me yesterday after stopping at our place. YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT HE DID... he started off sounding like he was interested in doing a story on the challenge course/volleyball and I could smell slim from 100 miles away... when he was done... I said... is that it? Then he said... well, I do have some other things I wanted to talk to you about! That is when I let him have it!! I told him I could believe that he would call me and PRETEND to be interested in doing a story about JUMP when I could tell what his motives were from the beginning! I'll have to tell you about the details of the conversation sometime... very interesting!

Rick

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:57 PM

From : Gia Rassier <giar3@hotmail.com>
Sent : Tuesday, February 24, 2004 7:24 AM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : RE: answers to difficult questions

Hey Dan, So you didn't see that thing that was on TV last night? Well, I am sure that you heard about it, right? lol. The whole thing just made them look like they had a very awful police FBI department or whatever, which is very true. Did you hear the whole chicken noodle thing? That was so ridiculous....If you ask a twleve year old boy what his favorite food is/what he wants; he is NOT going to say chicken noodle soup...geez, maybe a fourty year old woman...lol. We taped the whole thing so you will have to see it. Do you have other dvds? Some hoard of all the ones that you have won over the past how many years? I am definatly interested, lol. And nope, Sierra was not pulling your chain...she payed 30$ for that shirt...ridicolous, eh? Well, the bus is gonna come now soon. Talk to you later ~ GIa

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drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Thursday, March 4, 2004 5:51 PM

From : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Sent : Tuesday, February 24, 2004 9:56 PM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : question for channel 11

I'm wondering if anyone on your staff can tell me if it is legal to tape record (video and audio) a person that doesn't want to be recorded - doesn't know he is being recorded and is completely bashed over the TV news?
The recording in question was done as I was on public school property (outside the building). Your station did not do this to me. But another station has totally wrecked my life as I knew it only 2 days ago. I hope you can give me some guidance. The reporter completely deceived me and trashed me. Please let me know.

Thanks
Dan Rassier
drassier@hotmail.com

No Response

5890-1699 Jt. 69 dmt

msn® Hotmail®

drassier@hotmail.com

Printed: Tuesday, June 15, 2004 12:44 PM

From : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Sent : Thursday, May 6, 2004 11:28 AM
To : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : Jill note 2

Thanks Jill for putting me in touch with the Channel 11 Report.
I watched it last night and found it interesting. I can only hope law enforcement is on to something that will solve both cases.
I'll watch tonight for their "splash" and "wave". It sounds like the police are so convinced now no car was involved with Jacob. So I have assume the worst and that is they don't believe my story or they think I'm just wrong. Between you and me, believe me! There were at least 2 cars involved in Jacob's abduction. What bothers me is the fact that the police are so sure about the car driven by Kevin that night and yet - they have never ever even asked me exactly where did the car back up!? They don't seem to even know they are missing so many important pieces of information just relating to the idea of Kevin's car story that evening. I just have zero confidence in law enforcement at this point. I'm hoping they are appearing to be incompetent for a good reason. Time may tell.

Later -----Dan

5890-1699 I-69 Smt













Tonight in the KARE-11 News Extra:

KARE 11 Investigates: News in the Wetterling Case

Rick Kupchella, Jeff Wiltgen and John Drilling

Thursday night at ten in the Extra -- new information on the latest theory in the Jacob Wetterling abduction.

In the second part of Rick Kupchella's investigation, learn what investigators are saying now -- all these years later -- that lead them to believe they may be closer than ever to resolving the case.

Rick Kupchella has the exclusive story.

It's an investigation you won't want to miss Thursday at ten on KARE 11 News.

See Part One of the story.



- KARE 1 News ir Case
- KARE 1 Coincid Wetterl
- Married
- Keepinc They S
- The Gre Slim Dc
- Minnesc Symbol
- The Up Gas Pric
- New Hc
- Legend Profess
- Battling Hope a
- Protecti From S
- Minnesc Legend

Looking for information given out during a KARE 11 newscast? Check our **Featured on KARE-11 area.**

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care



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RE: Suspect/Witness

From: **dan rassier** (ultratalk@hotmail.com)
Sent: Thu 2/04/10 2:48 PM
To: Sandy Warmanen (sandy.warmanen@state.mn.us); ultratalk@hotmail.com

I'm sorry I can't risk doing that. I've seen the justice system at work on cases like this and can't trust it. I've decided to remain silent and not pursue your help.
Thank you.

Subject: Suspect/Witness
Date: Fri, 10 Mar 2006 08:20:05 -0600
From: Sandy.Warmanen@state.mn.us
To: ultratalk@hotmail.com

We are in receipt of your email to the Attorney General dated February 27, 2006. So the Attorney General can respond to you in writing, please reply to this email and provide me with your street address. Thank you,

Sandy Warmanen
MN Attorney General's Office
445 Minnesota Ave., 1800 NCL
St Paul, MN 55101
651/296-7581
sandy.warmanen@state.mn.us

The information contained in this e-mail is intended only for the use of the individual or entity

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from reading this e-mail or examining any attachments to the e-mail. Please notify the person

sending the message of the mistaken delivery immediately.

Hotmail: Trusted email with powerful SPAM protection. Sign up now.

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Logout
Desktop
Mailbox
Address Book
Calendar
Up One Level
Delete
New Message
Reply
Forward
History
Show Internet Header
Run Manual Rules
Run Receive Rules
Previous in Thread
Next in Thread
Previous Unread
Next Unread
About this Form

Message

Wednesday, July 21, 2004 6:52 AM -0600

From: "DVS Motor Vehicles" <mvehicle@mail1.dps.state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Web Question
To: dan rassier

Thank you for contacting Driver & Vehicle Services,

We are required by law to keep records for 7 years. Anything before 1997 has been purged. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Sincerely,
Casey #24

-----Original Message-----
From: rassierd@rocori.k12.mn.us [mailto:rassierd@rocori.k12.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2004 3:33 PM
To: DVS Motor Vehicles
Subject: Web Question

Name: Daniel A. Rassier
Plate Number:
VIN #:
Date of Birth: MM/DD/YYYY
Driver License #:
Comment/Question: I am working to solve a situation and need to find out
if you can help me:

Are you able to find out who owned a 1971 Monte Carlo in the St. Cloud
Area-radius of 50 miles or less in 1989? If you are able to retrieve such information but can't pass it on to a civilian, would you be able to pass it on to a private investigator or the FBI? I really would appreciate you help one way or the other. Thanks a lot.

Dan Rassier
320-363-8427
685-7534 Ext 3427
rassierd@rocori.k12.mn.us

5890-1699 It 69 6m+

startribune.com

Some get another look in Wetterling case

Pat Doyle
Star Tribune
Published 02/27/2004

Authorities said Thursday they are taking another look at potential suspects in the 1989 abduction of 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling, with greater consideration of the possibility that the kidnapper lived within walking distance of the crime scene.

"All individuals subjected to this refocused scrutiny have been identified for years as potential suspects and have never been satisfactorily cleared," the Stearns County Sheriff's Office said.

The renewed inquiry was prompted by a motorist who came forward last fall and told authorities that he had driven past the abduction scene on the night of the kidnapping after hearing reports of it on a police scanner. Investigators now think that tire tracks found at the abduction scene may have been left by the curious motorist, not the kidnapper.

"This does not completely eliminate the possibility that a vehicle was used, although in light of the new information that possibility has diminished," the Sheriff's Office said.

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5890-1699 JT.69 dmt

Jacob Wetterling File

It is now February 6, 2000. I have had this sheet with a few names and notes since Jacob was kidnapped in 1989. I thought I would just put them in more of a neat order here.

*About one week after Jacob was taken, I was getting gas at the Tom Thumb near the Del Win. This kid had a red coat on (like Jacob's?) and I remember trying to get a look at the kid. The Dad? came out of the Tom Thumb store and screamed at me. Basically I was trying to get his license #.
Minnesota MMC 879 Compact car with square headlights-Rabbit? Green tint-dull. Long hair+beard guy.

*Ralph Boeckers -Detective Stearns County Sheriff's Dept. talked to me a number of times. I think he was one of the initial guys to see me at CSE the Monday after it happened.
Stearns County Sheriff Dept Law Enforcement Center 807 Courthouse Square PO Box 217 St. Cloud, MN. 56302 320-259-3700

*Fred Temper FBI was with Ralph Boeckers as I recall. 259-3950

*The car I remember turning around in the afternoon was this (not sure on exact description).
1973 Monte Carlo Landan Half Roof was white. Light tan-dirty. Round headlights.
Tail lights on each side of back. Shorter truck with big front end.

*Car at night turning around was a dark compact car.

*Frank Wippler set up the hypnosis trip. 259-3966

*Chuck Olson-Sergeant and another guy were really jerks. They called me in on August 28, 1991. They lied to me to get me to say stuff. They threatened me lots.
Stearns County Sheriff's Dept. Law Enforcement Center 807 Courthouse Square PO Box 217
St. Cloud, MN 56302 Phone 320-259-3700

*September 1991. Older small car MN 798 GCT Turned around in yard? I met it as it was coming up over hill. I was coming home at 1 AM and Mom/Dad were in Alaska.

S890-1699 J7. 69 dmt

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5890-1699 JI. 69 Snt

Brief Summary Included of visit with Kenneth McDonald and Lady Police Person

February 7, 2004 Saturday Didn't drink enough water! Woke a few times very dried up and didn't have water in my room. Slight headache on waking. Waste time awake. Ate some. 8:30....Mom had trading post on. All the time has passed by. I keep thinking about Nancy Sery so much lately. It has to do with getting old and thinking about what happened by then and what could have been had I been a different way. But I must remember at the time, it was hell too. I think deep down Nancy was not sincere with me. I think she was a talker and when she realized I wasn't going to do what she wanted, she would play a game with me in the process of dumping me. I guess deep down, I hope she paid for the misery she caused me at the time. I haven't talked to her since the Spring of 1984 I believe. I think I may have seen her driving away from St. Marys with Scott and son for confirmation in like 1992. I think I saw her at Bonanza in the late 1980's? And I think about the days teaching with her. How in the hell did that go from her angle I wonder. I still can't believe she applied for that job knowing I was out there? Or maybe she didn't know that? Anyway....back to work. I 'm thinking lots about the fact that I didn't put my money into the market last year. Shit. In hindsight it was a mistake but maybe I still shouldn't and spend it a different way. Like buy instruments myself? 9-work on updates and room organization of whatever. Marathon next weekend! AMEX updates much of AM into early afternoon. KCLD call in 2x with not much luck. Ate with Dad. Almost got done with AMEX stuff. Did some extra record keeping as I went. 1:35-leave for law enforcement center meeting about Jacob at 2-4:20. This lady police and Kenneth McDonald-Special Agent for the MN Department of Public Safety interviewed me. Ken did most of the talking. First they ran down a very slimmed down timeline the day Jacob was taken. Much was left out. It was weird hearing much of it. Some of it I could not even recall. But in hindsight it was put out that way to support the theory of Ken. He basically was setting me up to look like I did the kidnapping! He showed me portions of the video tape when I was hypnotized. It was difficult seeing how I was so bent over and whatever. He played portions about me recalling working in my room and seeing the car turn around and the dog barking. He played portions where I was crying about Jacob being taken and I couldn't help or didn't help. He played a portion where I was saying I like to have things perfect. As we talked he led up to his basic theory that there was no car involved. The boys saw and heard a man walk toward them from my drive way and return that way with Jacob. He talked about the boys being able to see the yard light to our farm!? They couldn't see any car! All kinds of "facts" that I disagreed with! I felt from the getgo Ken was pushing a false story toward me. He said -they have located the driver of the car I saw turned around. It was a Hamelton family member who had a police scanner and was right near by and got there first. I think now????? How could this Hamilton car get here so soon.....and then I see it....go to bed....whatnot....I can't remember how much time goes by before the dog barks again. I still say the car turning around was the same driver as in the afternoon. No way could someone do the same thing like that after all these years! NO WAY. Some one is playing a game with me or they are trying to mix up my story??? Weird. They come on that is the truth and do believe the story put forth by this Hamilton clan. It sounded like this clan is kinda of spread out now and mixed up. So they come forward now with this story. Sounds like even they met the police on the scene and talked to some officer and he blew them off? They never show up again until now? I think something is just fishy. Why would they come forward now with such a story? The car turning at night was definitely at the time of Jacob and not when it was called in! BUT I should find out when was it called in!!!! When was my call recorded ? This Ken guy made points out of how classic it was for the guilty person to be acting like I'm acting. What a joke. I was not impressed with either one. Nice try I guess....they got me to rethink the story but my story is still the same. And they believe what they now believe....they will never solve this. If no car was involved, then what were all those reports about the snif dog stopping on the road at a certain point. On and on I think. I was going to call his number tonight but decided no....I'm just upset. I can think about some more. But right now I'm thinking-the car turned around way too early to be anyone else. The turn around was so long before the police came! I think I'll keep it simple and find out when did the 911 call go in???? from the babysitter or Wetterlings. Who should I ask? I don't believe the police. Anyway....I have to move on here. Shit. The day has now zipped by. I went to the club. Ran 30 min. Stretch 15. Whirlpool. Taco Johns for Taco 6 pack and pound of potatoe oles. Home. Mike/Mom/Dad....told them the whole deal. They didn't believe me.... I had called Penny and Tony about it already. Home about 6:30. Watched

5890-1699 Ex. 69 cont

some TV when they went to Jacob's Prairie for church. Practiced trumpet 30. KCLD loud. Updated AMEX and a few other things. Mail. Credit card and bank statements. Oh....yeah....they said this Hamilton car was dark grey....hmmmm? That is not black or dark blue! That doesn't even fit! Talked some more and had pop/chocolate milk from SA deal at St. Bens this week. Time slipped by as I debated the whole day in my head. I'm convinced they or someone else is playing a story card to just make trouble or whatever. 11PM. Continue organizing in room.

I am going to start writing down thoughts that come to mind about this all:

Why did you go to school on a day after this boy was kidnapped? How could you just go to school? At that point I never missed a day of school! Now if I didn't go, that would seem pretty weird too!

Channel 9 portrayed me not to care about this missing boy and I went to bed. They forgot to mention all the time I spent looking about our farm in buildings and so on. And it was pretty late to begin with! How long did I look about? I really can't remember how long for sure. Maybe some tapes would shed light on that.

The police don't even now where the cars I saw backed up/turned! According to Kevin Hamilton, he backed up in the driveway - on TV Tape.

The police don't realize what I saw happen that day ---- seeing a face in passenger side at night looking out.

Did Hamilton go into our yard. was a person in passenger side?

S890-1699 If. 69 omit

STEARNS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
P O BOX 217
ST CLOUD MINNESOTA 56302-0217
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FEB 13 '04
MN

U.S. POSTAGE
00.37
H METER 714087

#221-8579

Dan Rassier
29748 91st Avenue
St. Joseph, MN 56374

56374+3606 02

5890-1699 It. 69 Smt

Feb 13, 2004

To whoever took Jacob...

I often wonder, does Oct 22 mean anything to you? Do you remember the young boy you took from us? Do you still have him with you? He's an adult now... Feb 17 he will be 26... he is still just as loved and still dearly missed. Do you know the person you took?

Jacob was born Feb 17, 1978. He has his Grandpa's middle name. He loved sports and was incredibly competitive, especially with his younger brother, Trevor. They played, and they'd fight and then they'd fall asleep, each with one arm wrapped around the other. He fished with his Dad, and he had lots of friends. He was most known for his sense of fairness. Even if it had nothing to do with him – it always bothered him when things weren't fair.

Jacob tried hard at whatever he did. He was goalie for his hockey team. I remember asking him if it ever really bothered him when somebody scored on him? He said not really. If I stopped it, it was a great save. If it went in, it was a great shot!

You took away a wonderful person. Somebody

5890-1699 It. 69 Smt

who probably would have stood up for you if things weren't fair. Did no one do nice things for you?

I have found some comfort picturing you - not as a mean old, ugly bad guy, but at one time, you were an eleven year old boy. Someone's son... possibly someone's brother needing and hopefully sharing the love an 11 yr old boy deserves. If this love wasn't shared in your family, I'm sorry. Every child is entitled to the love and caring that family and friends provide.

If you still have Jacob, I wish for something good to happen to you... then maybe you'll treat him well. I hope you can have some peaceful moments where you can walk in the woods or on a beach, content, not miserable and vindictive.

I have a hard time in October and in February. I still talk to Jacob + continue to wonder, where are you Jacob? I talk to God - I struggle - I've even prayed for you - I wonder - what could I say if I could talk to you? I'm not sure - I don't hate you - I know nothing about you - I wonder if you were ever like Jacob - Did you also love

5890-1699 It. 69 6mm

peanut butter? Did you play jokes on April fools day? Did you have hopes + dreams?

Jacob is real to us - not just a kid on a poster. His mom + dad, Amy, Carmen + Trevor miss him daily. We miss who he was + wonder about who he could have been... he has hopes + dreams + potential.

I still hope + pray every day. I've had to give up or rather let go of a lot of anger. But the questions persist. I pray that God will shine down on us + bring us some peace. All I'm asking for is your response - a call to allow me and all of the people whose lives Jacob has touched to find some peace and a sense of the calm that disappeared Oct 22, 1989. The peace that can't return until the questions surrounding Jacob's disappearance are answered. You have held the answers for so long. You also hold the pain - please talk to me.

With hope -
Patty Wetterling
Jacob's mom

5890-1699 JW. 69 dow

www.thenewsleaders.com

St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, June 29, 2007

Volume 18, Issue 26 — *Your Source For Local Information* — Est. 1989

Town Crier

Office to close for extended holiday

The early deadline for the July 6 edition of the *Newsleader* is Friday, June 29.

The *Newsleader* office will be closed from July 4-6 so the staff can enjoy an extended holiday vacation.

However, there will still be a newspaper delivered Friday, July 6 to all of our readers.

The office will open again Monday, July 9. We apologize for any inconviences the office closing may cause.

Chamber Open set for Aug. 13

The St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce and Clearwire will host the 61st annual "Chamber Open"

Bobby Vee: 'Don't let your dreams go'

By Ralph Bell
ralphb@thenewsleaders.com



All of us know lucky people – those who reap good fortune, sometimes in spite of themselves. But in many cases, luck is more than just being in the right place at the right time. It's also about courage, of making the most of an occasion and letting the chips fall where they may.

In our neck of the woods, no one embodies better what can happen when preparation and courage meet opportunity than renowned rock 'n' roller, Bobby Vee.

Born into a musical family in Fargo, N.D., Bobby saved enough money from his paper route to buy a $30 guitar, hoping to join his brother Bill's garage band, the Shadows.

"You're too young," was the reply.

Not too young, however, to know each and every lyric to each

Leadership in Educational Excellence Award

I nominate Dan Rassier for the Leadership in Educational Excellence Award. This year I have had the pleasure of attending first grade music class twice a week to accompany a special needs student. I am completely impressed with all aspects of Mr. "BeBop's" teaching.

Dan's music curriculum is first rate. The first graders are learning music rhythms, notes, symbols and theory along with singing and dancing. To think that these students came into first grade with basically no musical background - they have grasped **years** of information due to the ease of which things are explained - and the fun the information is packaged in.

As if that challenge isn't enough, underlying the music curriculum lies an entire values curriculum. Choosing partners for dancing brings on a talk about being a good friend. The whole class "passing a test" (knowing music symbols, etc.) brings on a talk about home runs. That's great for today - but it doesn't count for tomorrow - so keep working! Daily lessons include appreciating the "little things" - the smell of a new guitar, and the pride holding a flag while leading a march.

Dan has a way of knowing what the students need - as a group and individually. On days when the class seems tense and in need of relaxation - there always seems to be time for the kids to spread out, get comfortable and listen to quiet music with the lights low. The kids love it!

Individually, Dan challenges each student at their own level - making every effort to have the kids succeed. Letting them know that a right answer doesn't mean you can quit working, and a wrong answer shouldn't be discouraging, since we are all still learning.

The lessons Dan teaches to the first graders are ones that we would all do well to learn. By instructing with excellence, he is grooming the next generation towards excellence.

3/5/07

Dan,
This nomination is
several years old now,
but my admiration for
your exceptional teaching
will never become
out-dated.

I know you are going
through a very tough
time right now.
I just thought it
might be a good time
to remind you - I think
you are one of the
best teachers we've got.
I pray you get your
life back soon.

Theresa Hagmann

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OMT

Dan R.

96	3	2081	Larissa Musgrave	29	2:12:39	2:12:18
97	16	2895	Greg Stompro	42	2:14:16	2:12:42
98	2	3718	Jane Boerboom	44	2:16:46	2:13:55
99	13	3474	Mitchell Rumple	48	2:15:07	2:14:06
100	6	2336	Jerry Downs	52	2:15:42	2:14:19
101	7	3828	Peter Frisch	54	2:15:35	2:15:26
102	26	2257	Kevin Robson	36	2:17:01	2:16:00
103	27	3029	Greg Bond	34	2:19:21	2:16:25
104	14	2181	Alan Rickel	46	2:19:10	2:16:45
105	24	2024	Robert Bauer-Olson	32	2:17:43	2:17:23
106	25	2431	Kristopher Thoele	28	2:18:43	2:17:24
107	8	2561	Dean Carlson	55	2:21:51	2:21:17
108	17	3301	Alan Bain	43	2:23:37	2:22:12
109	8	3312	Chris Davison	26	2:28:11	2:25:14
110	3	2548	Chuck Johnson	61	2:28:18	2:25:58
111	2	3491	Andrea Spooner	23	2:28:19	2:27:24
112	26	2004	Matthew DeRosier	31	2:27:37	2:27:30
113	27	2664	Robert Blankley II	28	2:29:52	2:27:53
114	15	2898	Tom Hoffman	47	2:32:09	2:30:05
115	4	2393	Peter Graber	59	2:32:47	2:30:06
116	3	3562	Lois Baker	38	2:33:42	2:32:10
117	1	2699	Mary Goetz	48	2:35:29	2:32:42
118	4	2388	Rachel Asleson	33	2:35:52	2:33:13
119	2	3711	Pamela Dahl	48	2:35:26	2:33:15
120	4	2915	Colleen Heimstead	35	2:35:36	2:33:27
121	3	2225	Beth Olson	26	2:36:00	2:33:28
122	28	3808	Josh Brosz	32	2:38:25	2:35:50
123	1	3082	Stan Kruger	67	2:38:32	2:36:13
124	3	3887	Mary Albrecht	49	2:38:47	2:36:36
125	9	3466	Myron Jacobson	55	2:40:01	2:38:40
126	16	3280	Roger Kotchian	47	2:46:16	2:43:59
127	29	3045	Jeromy Johnson	29	2:48:45	2:46:08
128	9	3494	Tjaden Sinclair	25	2:48:53	2:47:56
129	4	3758	Kari Cawley	22	2:51:01	2:49:15
130	5	2085	Tara DuBord	24	2:51:38	2:49:38
131	17	2637	Dale Harsh	48	2:52:28	2:49:39
132	3	3525	Kristina Anderson	40	2:53:17	2:50:25
133	4	2419	Lori Olson	48	2:51:22	2:51:18
134	10	2532	Joshua Simmers	25	2:54:47	2:53:03
135	11	2288	Jeremy Kasperson	24	2:54:36	2:54:05
136	5	3742	Ingrid Rhinehart	29	2:56:44	2:54:07
137	4	3529	Susan Ruud	44	2:57:50	2:55:43
138	5	3630	Wylene Vanguilder	47	2:59:00	2:56:40
139	6	3211	Jessica Olson	24	2:56:46	2:56:42

Bill Becker Chiro Story

Type this up someday

S890-1699 Ft. 69 Smit

Date: _____

Student's Name: _____

This is a reminder to pay for the following music/band items.

_____

_____

_____

Total: _____
Please make checks payable to "Dan Rassier". Thank You.
If questions, please call me at 685-7534 Extension 3427.

Date: _____

Student's Name: _____

This is a reminder to pay for the following music/band items.

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Total: _____
Please make checks payable to "Dan Rassier". Thank You.
If questions, please call me at 685-7534 Extension 3427.

Date: _____

Student's Name: _____

This is a reminder to pay for the following music/band items.

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Total: _____
Please make checks payable to "Dan Rassier". Thank You.
If questions, please call me at 685-7534 Extension 3427.

MN Ed Darrell Baty 253-2530 Field Staff Person

Rinke-Noonan 251-6700 (Emily) Defamation Liebel
Civil Lawyer

Paul Ward told me to call Paul Germscheid 253-2530

Sparby + Carrie Smoley told me - Dan Eller 253-3700
or
Kay Lahr

5890-1699 If. 69 Sent

WETTERLING from B1

Abduction drew national attention, barrage of leads

"No doubt this new piece of information has renewed interest in the case — fifteen new investigators like into it," said Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner. "We've got something fresh."

Sanner said the investigation has been "refocused to examine potential local suspects" who could have abducted Jacob without a vehicle. All of the people subjected to the new scrutiny have been identified for years as potential suspects but never cleared.

In the days and weeks after the abduction, authorities conducted extensive interviews with neighbors of the Wetterlings. But they also spent much of their time looking elsewhere in Minnesota and the nation on the theory that an abductor from outside the area might have driven off with the boy.

"This case received national attention so quickly and to such a great extent that calls were coming in from all over the country about possible sightings and descriptions of vehicles and matches on the descriptions of vehicles with suspects," said Jim Kostreba, a former Stearns County sheriff who played a major role in the investigation. "We couldn't dismiss them. So there's a lot of jumping around to different areas of the country."

Kostreba said investigators from the FBI, Stearns County and the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension were justified in pursuing a theory that the abductor used a vehicle because ramps to Interstate Hwy. 94 are a couple of miles from the Wetterling home, and the boy had visited a convenience store along another highway shortly before he was abducted.

"But it took up valuable time and resources, there is no question about that," Kostreba said.

The new information casts doubt on evidence that the abductor used a vehicle that left tire tracks at the scene. Investigators had long regarded the tracks as significant because they appeared near small footprints on a driveway off the township road near where the abduction occurred.

But last fall a man reported that he had driven to the abduction scene the night of the kidnapping after hearing police activity on a scanner. He said he came forward recently after having a casual conversation with someone in law enforcement.

Investigators don't consider the man a suspect and say his account offers an innocent explanation for the tire tracks. An abduction without a vehicle would increase the likelihood that the kidnapper lived nearby.

Start at the center

Dennis Sigafoos was an agent for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension assigned to the case in 1989.

"My deal has always been, start in the neighborhood and stay in the neighborhood ... unless something takes you out of the neighborhood," said Sigafoos, now retired. "If there was no car, then obviously we should have been in there even harder ... maybe a hell of a lot more could have been done. But I can assure you we talked to people and talked to people and talked to people. In my heart, I believe we did both equally well — inside the neighborhood and outside."

But about a week after the abduction, most of the leads were taking investigators outside the area, Sigafoos said. Massive media coverage "brought in leads from all over, and it seemed we spent an awful lot of time following up leads outside the area that really weren't worth following up. And we should have been back in that home area until something positively took us outside of it."

FBI Special Agent Paul McCabe also worked the Wetterling case and said there was a heavy emphasis on pursuing local leads.

"In all of these investigations you kind of start at the center and work out," McCabe said. "That's kind of how the investigation was done at that time. You start at the core and just keep going out and out and out, until we had the whole county covered, and then we kept going from there."

He said investigators continued to follow local leads even as they pursued angles that took them outside the Wetterling neighborhood.

"As you're pushing your way out, all of a sudden a new lead might take you back in," McCabe said. "The main thing is no one wants to get tunnel vision. You keep all of your options open."

Al Garber, a former FBI agent who supervised the Wetterling investigation, did not respond this week to questions about the case.

Sketches, tire tracks

During the first few months after the abduction, leads surfaced suddenly, only to quickly fade in importance.

The FBI released a sketch of an unidentified man it believed kidnapped Jacob and molested a 12-year-old boy from Cold Spring, Minn. The finely white man was reportedly wearing

5890-1699 If 69 Strnt

the boys were running from an abduction and may not have been looking or listening for a vehicle.

Kostreba continues to believe there was a vehicle, saying it would have been very hard for an abductor to disappear so quickly with an 11-year-old boy without one. He says the tire-track explanation for the tire track in the driveway doesn't rule out that another vehicle was used in the kidnapping and that the abductor was a local person.

Whether a vehicle was used, Kostreba is skeptical of the theory that the abduction was committed by someone from outside the region.

"My personal feeling is that it's always a little bit closer to home," he said.

The writers are at pdoyle@startribune.com and richm@startribune.com.



Patty Wetterling talked about new information that surfaced in her son Jacob's case last week at the Jacob Wetterling Foundation office. Authorities said the abductor in the 1989 kidnapping might not have used a vehicle.

Richard Sennott/Star Tribune

From the start, Wetterling case drew range of tips

By Pat Doyle and Richard Meryhew
Star Tribune Staff Writers

The kidnapper drove a red Chevette. Or maybe it was a white Chevrolet. Or a brown van.

There were no suspects. There were lots of suspects.

Police circulated sketches of a burly middle-aged man who was seen near the abduction. They also released a sketch of a younger man.

From the beginning, the investigation into the 1989 abduction of Jacob Wetterling, 11, of St. Joseph, Minn., has been a searchlight scanning the horizon, pausing occasionally to focus in one direction or another.

The latest twist came last week, when authorities announced that they had new information indicating that the abductor may not have used a vehicle after all. If so, he probably lived or stayed within easy walking distance of the abduction.

WETTERLING continues on B5

5890-1699 If 69 Strnt

St. Joseph Newsleader

'Where are you, Jacob Wetterling?'



Park, which includes a memorial to their son, Jacob, who was abducted Oct. 22, 1989.

At the time of Jacob's disappearance, there was no AMBER-alert system in place to help the public stay on the lookout for an abductor and his prey. Nor was there a federal databank to track the whereabouts of registered sex offenders. There are now, of course, due to the unbridled determination of Patty Wetterling and the sustenance of her husband, Jerry. But at the time, despite the largest manhunt ever in Minnesota, and a plight that captured the attention of the nation, the Wetterlings' son was never seen or heard from again.

The abduction site itself is unnoteworthy, save for the "bogeyman" that popped out of a ditch near the Wetterling's rural St. Joseph home. The kidnapper, a man who was afraid to show his face and needed the intimidating power of a gun to force his will on a child, must have been loved by someone, somewhere along the line.

Jacob • Page 6

Jacob

From front page

But obviously something went terribly wrong. And Jacob, who happened to pass by the wrong place at the wrong time, paid a price so steep that most of us cringe when contemplating the matter for even a brief period of time.

When heading into town, Jerry and Patty have no choice but to pass by the location of their son's disappearance. The site, you see, is on the only road leading in and out of their cul-de-sac neighborhood.

"Early on," Jerry said, softly, "it was really hard because you're reliving the most horrible thing you can imagine. Now it's more haunting for me. And it's not all the time. You get wrapped up in daily life. But there's times when I drive by and . . . it's mysterious, you know.

"Who did it?" he continued. "What happened? Why?"

"Where are you?" Patty added.

"Do you ever get out and stand there?" I asked.

"Yeah," Jerry said.

"Or when you walk by, you stop?"

"Yeah."

"You could have starved," I said. "So you wouldn't have to face going by there everyday. It was an option, right?

"Yes," Patty said, her voice choked with emotion. "Because we expected him to come home."

"And for you," I asked, "Going by that spot . . .

"But you could have crawled under a rock," I said. "And nobody would have blamed you for that."

"But I couldn't," Patty said. "I mean, I tried that. I just wanted to curl up and die. I just wanted to go away."

"That was the first four or five days," Jerry said. "After that, you didn't. My assessment was that people came to you for stuff and you didn't back away. You responded, and people don't usually do that. When you were asked to do something, you stepped up to the plate."

"But I did just curl up and think I couldn't go on," Patty said, struggling to maintain her composure. "I did say to myself, 'I'm never going to get out of this bed. It's too hard. I can't do this anymore.' And I literally, visually, saw Jacob curled up in a ball saying the same thing, 'You're never going to find me. I can't do this. It's too hard.' And I started talking to him, saying 'Hold on, Jacob!' And I was like beating myself up because here I am, surrounded by the whole world. And law enforcement, and all these people. And there he was, all alone. And I thought 'I can certainly at least get out of bed.' And that's all it was."

"And you took that drive to help your son," I said, "all the way to Washington."

"Pretty much," Patty said, quietly.

"And you knocked on doors and you made them listen," I said.

"Yes," Patty said. "And they did."

"And now it's a good thing?" I asked. "As outrageous, have those have helped?"

"Oh, I believe so," Patty said. "But I think that I'm not done, I guess. I think we have to be really cautious and keep in mind, 'What is the goal?' And the goal is to have no more victims. That's really what we all want."

Free Weekly

St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, Feb. 16, 2007

Volume 18, Issue 7

Your Source For Local Information

Est. 1989

'Where are you, Jacob Wetterling?'

By Ralph Bell
ralphb@thenewsleaders.com

In some respects, it just doesn't seem possible that Feb. 17 marks the 29th birthday of Jacob Wetterling.

For many of us, Jacob's smiling face will forever be frozen in time as the young, innocent Minnesota boy who touched our hearts and souls, now so many years ago.

By now – like his brother, Trevor, and sisters Amy and Carmen, "Jake" would most likely be living on his own – perhaps married, raising a family, working in his chosen field – following his dreams, as every parent hopes for their children.

We're all painfully aware, however, Jacob's opportunity to live a "normal" life was snatched away when a masked gunman abducted the child on a rural road, about a half-mile from his home. The date was Oct. 22, 1989. Jacob, the oldest son in his family, was only 11 years old.



Jerry and Patty Wetterling and their children talk to Jacob while taking a break while hiking through Interpretive Park, which includes a memorial to their son, Jacob, who was abducted Oct. 22, 1989.

At the time of Jacob's disappearance, there was no AMBER-alert system in place to help the public stay on the lookout for an abductor and his prey. Nor was there a federal databank to track the whereabouts of registered sex offenders. There are now, of course, due to the unbridled determination of Patty Wetterling and the sustenance of her husband, Jerry. But at the time, despite the largest manhunt ever in Minnesota, and a plight that captured the attention of the nation, the Wetterlings' son was never seen or heard from again.

The abduction site itself is unnoteworthy, save for the "bogeyman" that popped out of a ditch near the Wetterling's rural St. Joseph home. The kidnapper, a man who was afraid to show his face and needed the intimidating power of a gun to force his will on a child, must have been loved by someone, somewhere along the line.

Jacob • Page 6

Jacob

I'm there," Patty said, drying her eyes. "And sometimes I yell,

"But you could have crawled under a rock," I said. "And no-

"But I think that I'm not done. I

St. Joseph Newsleader
Friday, Sept. 7, 2007
Your Source For Local Information
Est. 1989

Wetterling celebrates 30-year practice

By Ralph Bell
ralphb@thenewsleaders.com

When he first entered Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport Iowa more than three decades ago, none of Jerry Wetterling's family had ever been to a chiropractor before. What's more the Mankato State College graduate knew very little about the field himself. But this he did know – after his first "adjustment" the former math teacher and coach was compelled to learn more about the science, art and philosophy of what would become his life's profession.

"I was going to be a math teacher and coach," Wetterling said. "And I did teach junior high math in Arlington, Va. for one year. But after working part-time in a natural-health-food store, and for a non-profit (the National Jogging Association) that promoted preventive medicine through cardiovascular exercise, I became more and more interested in all aspects of natural health."

During his last year of school at Palmer College (where chiropractic first began in 1895), Wetterling and his wife, Patty, began thinking about where to start a practice, settle down and raise a family.

"Minnesota had just gotten through the state legislature a couple of years earlier," Wetterling said, "insurance equality laws that covered chiropractic under most group insurance policies, as well as workers compensation and personal injury. And Patty had a sister living in Sartell at the time, and I having grown up in a rural area in north central Iowa, the St. Joe – St. Cloud area just seemed like a nice fit."

While in the process of buying and remodeling his long-time location at 103 N. College Ave., the newly titled Dr. Wetterling opened a temporary office in mid-December, 1976 in a small room adjoining St. Joseph's recently razed downtown laundromat. A couple of weeks later he was greeted by a cold stretch he still remembers to this day.

"That was a very cold January of 1977," Wetterling said. "I think it was eight or nine straight days where it never got above zero. The heat was not very efficient in that office. And I remember one of my first patients calling me the 'Electrolux Man' because he claimed my hands sucked the heat right off his back."

Wetterling said his business began to grow quickly once his office and upstairs living quarters were completed – then even more so after he opened a satellite office in Albany in February of 1980. Some claim Wetterling's "healing hands" as the reason for his success, while others point to his evident sense of concern for their well being.

"I love talking to people and motivating them to do better," Wetterling said. "When you see a person who on a good day is pretty much expressionless, compared to most days when they're depressed or grumpy – to see them actually start smiling and enjoying life because they can now move better, get back to doing the fun things they enjoy, and able to really do their job without discomfort – that's an amazing feeling. For me it's just some really great feedback.



photo by Ralph Bell

Dr. Jerry Wetterling performs a shoulder manipulation Tuesday on Craig Beumer, a patient from Watkins, at Wetterling's St. Joseph office.

"I had this one woman a number of years back," Wetterling said, "who had come to me for some neck pain and headaches and real ongoing nagging pain in the shoulder blade area in the middle of her back. And it was very gratifying and surprising to her when after a few sessions she delightedly informed me the upset stomach she had experienced for years had almost completely gone away. And she hadn't even mentioned that symptom to me because she didn't think it was anything we would be able to help her with."

Wetterling said Central Minnesota's acceptance of chiropractic services has changed immensely since his arrival. At the time he and his wife, Patty, moved to St. Joseph seven chiropractors could be found in the telephone book. Now more than 50 practitioners serve the area.

"I chuckle now," Wetterling said, "because today you can find medical doctors and chiropractors working hand in hand. When I first came to St. Joe, I couldn't order a test over at the St. Joseph Medical Clinic because at the time the Stearns-Benton Medical Society had a policy against associating with chiropractors. Now there are cross referrals and consulting on cases, and it's really amazing to see how that has changed in such a positive way."

Wetterling • Page 6

Inside this month's St. Joseph Newsleader: Insert St. Joseph Family Chiropractic

Some get renewed scrutiny in Wetterling case

Feb 27, 2004 Star Tribune Metro/State

Authorities said Thursday they are taking another look at potential suspects in the 1989 abduction of 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling, with greater consideration of the possibility that the kidnapper lived within walking distance of the crime scene.

"All individuals subjected to this refocused scrutiny have been identified for years as potential suspects and have never been satisfactorily cleared," the Stearns County Sheriff's Office said.



Jacob Wetterling

The renewed inquiry was prompted by a motorist who came forward last fall and told authorities that he had driven past the abduction scene on the night of the kidnapping after hearing reports of it on a police scanner. Investigators now think that tire tracks found at the abduction scene may have been left by the curious motorist, not the kidnapper.

"This does not completely eliminate the possibility that a vehicle was used, although in light of the new information that possibility has diminished," the Sheriff's Office said.

Pat Doyle

5890 - 1699 - It. 69 Sm

Life

AUTHOR FROM ST. JOSEPH HAS A KEY MESSAGE ABOUT CHILD SAFETY



News photo by Paul Middendorf, pmiddendorf@stcloudtimes.com

Child safety specialist Alison Feigh addresses a group of adolescents about Internet safety April 30 at Gustavus Lutheran Church in Foley.

DON'T FENCE KIDS IN

PARENTS: AVOID GIVING CHILDREN FEAR-BASED ADVICE

By Adam Hammer
aehammer@stcloudtimes.com

When Alison Feigh was a small child, she ran away from home.

She wasn't old enough to cross the street by herself, so she didn't. She obeyed her mother's order to stay off the road, but in her mind she was running away.

"I remember walking around the block with my brothers following me," said Feigh, who is the child safety expert at the Jacob Wetterling Foundation.

After a few trips around the block, she calmed down and went home accompanied by her entourage of brothers on bicycles who were dispatched by her mother to keep an eye on her.

Not all runaway experiences are as innocent as Feigh's.

Feigh hopes her new book "On from a problem, it doesn't make it go away; it makes it worse," Feigh said.

The book, targeted for ages 6 to 10, was released April 18 along with her other children's book, "I Can Play It Safe," for ages 4 to 8, by Free Spirit Publishing.

Teaching tools

Feigh will have a book signing from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday at Mississippi Bean & Tea Co.

She was motivated to write the books to answer a question she was often asked at her child safety presentations: How do I go home now and have this conversation with my child?

"As much as I love to go around and speak, I can't be everywhere at once," Feigh said.

The books are published with tips for parents and children and advice on how to use the books as teaching tools.

See MESSAGE, 3C ▸

■ Feigh was a classmate of Jacob Wetterling/3C

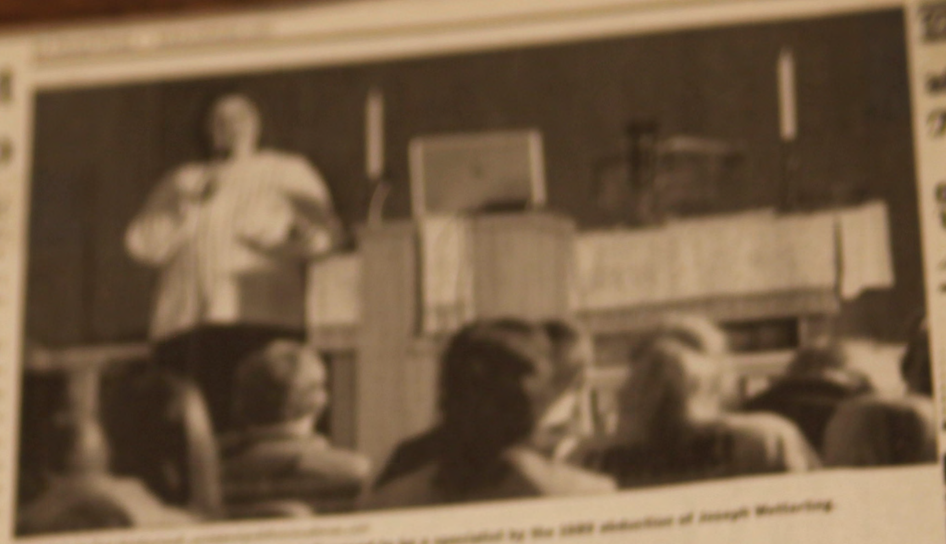


ALISON FEIGH WILL CONDUCT A BOOK SIGNING FOR "I CAN PLAY IT SAFE" AND "THOSE RUNAWAY DAYS" FROM

TIPS TO AVOID BIG PROBLEMS

Child safety specialist and author Alison Feigh offers the following kid-friendly tips from "On Those Runaway Days" to help children keep a temporary problem from growing into something bigger:

- Use calming breathing whenever you feel anxious or afraid.
- Listen to your gut feelings.
- Think hard about making good choices.
- Seek out adults you trust.
- Talk out the problem with caring adults.
- Remember you are



Child safety specialist Alison Feigh was influenced to be a specialist by the 1989 abduction of Joseph Wetterling.

FROM PAGE 1E

Message

With brightly illustrated pages and imaginative rhymes that draw on a child's imagination, the books are more than lessons. They are stories with morals.

No fear here

Instead of fear-based safety advice, such as "stranger danger," Feigh's books direct children to trust their gut instincts — that "uh-oh" feeling — and always tell a parent or person taking care of them when they think there's a problem.

("Stranger danger") advice misses the majority of causes we're trying to prevent," Feigh said.

Many child abductions and exploitations are committed by adults that children already know — not shadowy strangers lurking around the corner.

That "uh-oh" feeling can come when children are encountered by strangers or when they're with friends and family; it's a gut instinct that tells them something is wrong with a situation.

> "It's the parents' job to keep them safe; it's a kid's job to be a kid."
>
> **Alison Feigh,** *Child safety specialist*

PERSONAL SAFETY RULES FOR KIDS

Alison Feigh outlines seven rules for child safety in her book "I Can Play It Safe."

- Always check with a caregiver for permission to go anywhere with anyone.
- Listen and respond to your gut instinct.
- Don't keep secrets from caregivers or parents.
- Know that your body is your own, and some parts are private.
- Check in with a trusted adult when another adult asks for your help.
- Know you are special and deserve to be safe.
- Make connections with healthy adults in and out of your family.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alison Feigh is the child safety specialist at the Jacob Wetterling Foundation in St. Paul.

She was influenced to be a specialist by the 1989 abduction of 11-year-old classmate Jacob Wetterling from St. Joseph and became a spokeswoman on issues of justice at a young age.

As an adult, she has been speaking out against the problems of missing and exploited children for more than a decade.

Feigh is a St. Joseph native now living in St. Paul.

A portion of the proceeds from sales of "On Those Runaway Days" and "I Can Play It Safe" will be donated to the Jacob Wetterling Foundation in St. Paul.

Parents in charge

The books take a non-fear-based approach to teaching child safety.

They represent Feigh's first attempt as a children's book author.

The books put the focus on parental guidance to keep children safe.

Readallaboutit

Best-sellers

HARDBACK FICTION

1. "So Brave, Young and Handsome," Leif Enger.
2. "Belong to Me," Marisa de los Santos.
3. "Where Are You Now?" Mary Higgins Clark.
4. "Change of Heart," Jodi Picoult.
5. "Hold Tight," Harlan Coben.

HARDBACK NONFICTION

1. "The Last Lecture," Randy Pausch and Jeffrey Zaslow.
2. "Escape," Carolyn Jessop and Laura Palmer.
3. "Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Meth Addiction," David Sheff.
4. "Home: A Memoir of My Early Years," Julie Andrews.

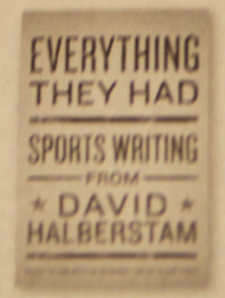
REVIEW

SPORTS FOR THE NONFAN

By Mary Foster
The Associated Press

Even if you have no interest in sports, you can enjoy David Halberstam's graceful writing about them.

Halberstam, who was killed in a car crash last year at age 73, won a Pulitzer Prize in journalism in 1964 for his coverage of the Vietnam War, and was nominated as a finalist this year in the history category for "The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War."



"EVERYTHING THEY HAD"

By David Halberstam

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1. "The Last Lecture," Randy Pausch and Jeffrey Zaslow.
2. "Escape," Carolyn Jessop and Laura Palmer.
3. "Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Meth Addiction," David Sheff.
4. "Home: A Memoir of My Early Years," Julie Andrews.
5. "Eat This Not That: Thousands of Simple Food Swaps That Can Save You 10, 20, 30 Pounds — Or More!" David Zinczenko and Matt Goulding.

PAPERBACK MASS MARKET

1. "Invisible Prey," John Sandford.
2. "Bad Luck and Trouble," Lee Child.
3. "The Alibi Man," Tami Hoag.
4. "The Double Agents," W.E.B. Griffin and William E. Butterworth IV.
5. "Simple Genius," David Baldacci.

PAPERBACK TRADE

1. "A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose," Eckhart Tolle.
2. "My Best Friend's Girl," Dorothy Koomson.
3. "Out Stealing Horses," Per Petterson.

REVIEW

SPORTS FOR THE NONFAN

By Mary Foster
The Associated Press

Even if you have no interest in sports, you can enjoy David Halberstam's graceful writing about them.

Halberstam, who was killed in a car crash last year at age 73, won a Pulitzer Prize in journalism in 1964 for his coverage of the Vietnam War, and was nominated as a finalist this year in the history category for "The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War."

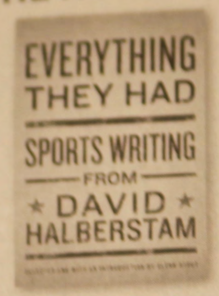
He elevated any subject he tackled — war, politics, history and sports — with his eloquence and ability to find what was not obvious.

No one was better at combining narrative storytelling with reporting. His books read like good novels.

He works that magic in "Everything They Had," a compilation of articles he wrote for other publications.

Halberstam covers the expected, such as baseball, football and basketball, and the esoteric — fishing, fencing, fitness — and why people are interested in sports beyond the betting line.

He also sees sports



"EVERYTHING THEY HAD"

By David Halberstam

In "Baseball and the National Mythology," he points out that "Washington is not the ideal spot for Camelot, and our politics are more given to venality, drudgery, boredom and frustration than to beautiful people and soaring ideas, so it is not surprising that we turn to sports for our myths."

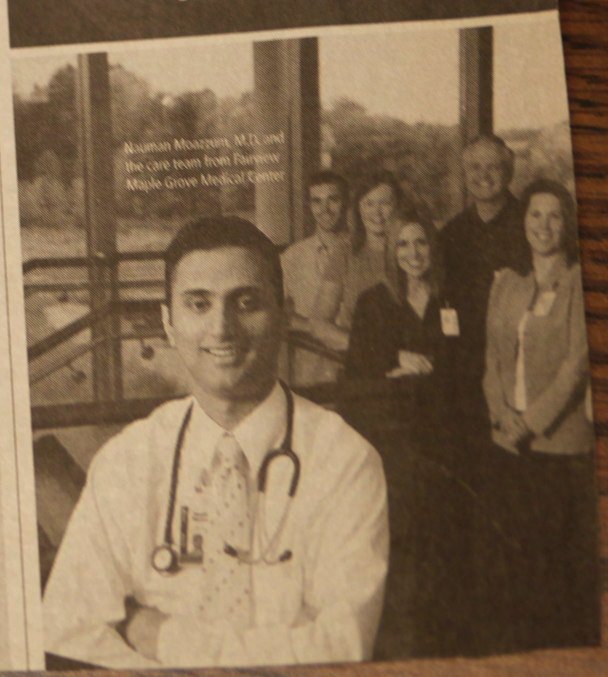
In writing about Michael Jordan at the peak of his career, Halberstam watches as he handles a crowd waiting for him.

"I have not seen fame like this in almost 30 years," Halberstam writes, comparing Jordan to Elvis Presley, John Kennedy and

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UNIVERSITY of MINNESOTA PHYS



Family marks missing boy's 30th birthday

They say Jacob's 1989 abduction could spur safety conversations

Times staff and news services

ST. JOSEPH — Today marks Jacob Wetterling's 30th birthday, and his family says they will spend the day together to honor him — just as they have every year since his abduction at gunpoint on Oct. 22, 1989.

Wetterling, a sixth-grader at St. Cloud's North Junior High School, was 11 years old when he was abducted near St. Joseph more than 18 years ago. The case remains open; no arrests have been made.

His mother, Patty Wetterling, said today will be a tough day.

She says the family will say some prayers and she hopes families will use the weekend as an opportunity to talk to their own children about being safe.

Jacob's abduction happened as he, his brother Trevor and a friend rode their bikes home

SEARCH GOES ON



Before his disappearance



Computer-aged photo of him at 29

See WETTERLING, 6A ▶

FROM PAGE 1A

Wetterling

from a now-defunct St. Joseph convenience store after picking up a movie and snack.

A masked man with a gun stopped the boys along a gravel road.

The gunman took Jacob after ordering the boys into a ditch, asking their ages and ordering the other two boys to run away.

In the weeks following the crime, the community fielded thousands of volunteers to search for Jacob.

The case has had a long-term impact in Central Minnesota and beyond.

The Jacob Wetterling Foundation, dedicated to educating families and communities about preventing the exploitation of children, was founded in his name.

The Minnesota Highway 15 bridge that spans the Mississippi River between Sartell and Sauk Rapids is called the Bridge of Hope, in Jacob's honor.

And a 1994 federal sex offender registration law is called the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act.

STILL LOOKING

If you have information about the disappearance of Jacob Wetterling, call Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 255-1301 or go to www.tricountycrimestoppers.org.

ON THE NET

Jacob Wetterling Foundation: www.jwf.org

The Minnesota Highway 15 bridge that spans the Mississippi River between Sartell and Sauk Rapids is called the Bridge of Hope, in Jacob's honor.

ST. CLOUD
Times
WWW.SCTIMES.COM | ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE @ M.SCTIMES.COM

Wetterlings hold on to hope for Jacob

Kidnapped girl's story is encouraging to many

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Patty Wetterling keeps a scrapbook of news clippings about abducted children being reunited with their families years later. It's a source of hope for Wetterling, whose son, Jacob, was abducted nearly 20 years ago in Central Minnesota.

Soon, Wetterling will add another child's story to her book: Jaycee Lee Dugard's.

"My heart's smiling," Wetterling said of reports that Dugard had been reunited with her family in California after 18 years after she was abducted at age 11. "It doesn't happen often enough, but we always have hope in our hearts that it will."

Dugard's case, and others like it, show families whose children have been missing for years that such reunions are possible.

More than 58,000 children are taken in non-family abductions every year in the U.S., according to Justice Department estimates. Most of those cases are resolved within the first 24 hours, while an estimated 115 children are victims of real kidnapping — where the child is held, taken a

See HOPE, 4A ▸



AP photo

Jerry Wetterling and wife Patty (left), show a photo of their son Jacob Wetterling on Friday in Minneapolis. Jacob was abducted in St. Joseph in 1989 and is still missing.

FROM PAGE 1A

Hope

long distance, killed or kept.

Wetterling and some other parents of missing children believe their loved ones still could be out there, just like Dugard. They also know it's unlikely abducted children will seek help, becoming dependent on their captors.

"These kids don't just come forward on their own, they're most often discovered," said Wetterling, of St. Joseph, who has become a nationally known advocate for missing and exploited children. "They build a life. They're told lies. They do what they need to survive. We need to do what we can to find them."

In Alma, Ark., where 6-year-old Morgan Nick went missing in 1995, her mother Colleen has led efforts to keep the case going. She meets with the town's police chief regularly to talk about the case and any new leads, which she says come in weekly. Like Wetterling, Nick started a foundation named after her daughter to support other families and assist in prevention efforts.

When she first heard the news about Dugard, Nick's office phone started ringing. Then her cell phone. All the other parents she had worked with through the years shared in the joy — Dugard had reaffirmed that working to find their missing children was worth it, she said.

Dugard's reunion with her family is now one of the cases Hilary Sessions will cite as she explains to people why she's still looking for her daughter, Tiffany, who vanished on her college campus in 1989. The Elizabeth Smart case in Utah and the Shawn Hornbeck case in Missouri also gave her reason to keep looking while some people were telling her to move on.

"They think I'm crazy for keeping up the hope," said Sessions, of Valrico, Fla.

It's been 20 years since Sessions last saw Tiffany, but

ON THE NET:

http://www.missingkids.com/

Canada where a woman was held in captivity even longer than Dugard before being reunited with her mother. "The mother stayed in the same house, hoping that her daughter would come home," she said. "I'm still in my same house."

While Dugard turned out to be alive, hearing details about her captivity was painful for some families with missing children.

Lois Warner, whose 5-year-old granddaughter, Leanna Warner, disappeared six years ago in Chisholm, said she tries to avoid reading articles or watching TV reports about cases like Dugard's. It brings back the pain, she said.

While some in her family might hope for a reunion like Dugard's, Warner doubts she would be able to handle it. "I don't want to know. She's with the Lord, in my opinion, whether or not she's alive," she said.

At the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, President Ernie Allen said Dugard's reappearance was celebrated as the kind of story advocates work to make happen, whether by asking the public to report suspicious activity or by pushing police to keep working cases.

"It's really important that these cases not be closed until we know with certainty what happened to them," Allen said.

TOP STORIES OF '09 #3: WETTERLING ANNIVERSARY

Region remembers Jacob's kidnapping

By Kari Petrie
kpetrie@stcloudtimes.com

Jacob's hope lives on.

The ongoing search for answers in the disappearance of Jacob Wetterling marked its 20th anniversary this year. Readers named it the third top story of the year.

Wetterling went missing Oct. 22, 1989. The then-11-year-old was with his brother and friend when the boys went to a St. Joseph convenience store to pick up a movie.

See WETTERLING, 6A ▸



Times photo by Adam Hammer, aehammer@stcloudtimes.com

Patty Wetterling sings with Red Grammer at a concert to mark the 20th anniversary of Jacob Wetterling's abduction.

FROM PAGE 3A

Wetterling

A masked gunman stopped the boys on their way home, ordered them into a ditch, asked them their ages and let the brother and friend go.

Wetterling hasn't been heard from since.

Wetterling's abduction touched a community, changing laws and the way families live. It continues to haunt his family and friends. Authorities continue to search for answers.

The anniversary brought about 70 tips into the Stearns County Sheriff's Office, Capt. Pam Jensen said. She has spent time prioritizing those tips and following up on them.

"You're just hoping that you get enough to come up with some answers," she said.

Jensen said none of the tips she received were outstanding, but she continues to investigate.

The case has remained in people's minds because it came as such a shock, Jensen said. People can't understand how a child could have been abducted.

Police continue to investigate the case and try to find out what happened to Wetterling. Jensen said the recent attention the case got was good.

"There's always the hope it will get to somebody who hasn't said anything yet," she said.

Jacob Wetterling's parents, Patty and Jerry Wetterling, could not be reached for comment.

TOP STORIES OF '09

YOU SAID, YOU READ

Times readers voted the 20th anniversary of the abduction of Jacob Wetterling the third most significant story of 2009.

But they clicked 22,860 times on "Superman argues right to free speech," making it the third most viewed story on www.sctimes.com this year.

The story, about John Fillah's fight against misdemeanor charges, was published June 4.

ON THE NET

In October the St. Cloud Times revisited the Jacob Wetterling abduction and talked to the people directly involved in it. Go online to see the project at www.sctimes.com/wetterling.

St. Joseph
Newsleader

Walk for missing children culminates in St. Joseph

...the call and though fewer in numbers than 1989, they walked from Anoka to the Wetterling home in memory of all the missing and abducted children.

Starting in downtown Anoka, 25 or so Vietnam Veterans carried three flags – the U.S. Flag, the black Missing In Action flag,

...there are literally thousands and thousands of children missing. We need to find a way to find them."

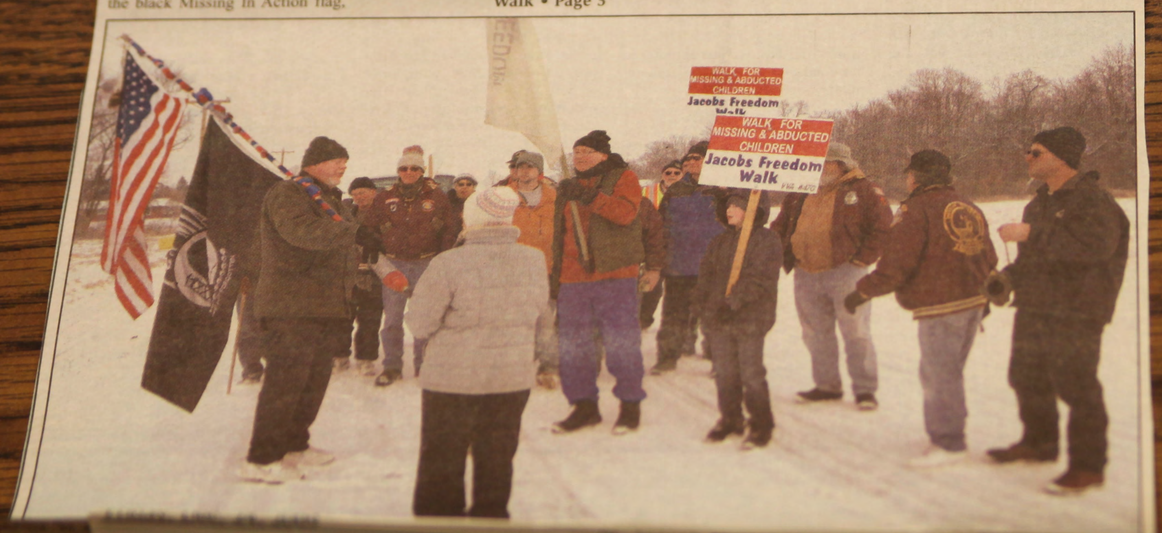
Outside of St. Joseph, within sight of the Wetterling home, the group stopped at the site of Jacob Wetterling's abduction. They

Walk • Page 3



photo by Dave DeMars

Jerry Wetterling (with weapon) fires a round. The firing of three rounds is symbolic. It signifies the hope those who are lost will hear the shots and walk toward them and be found and rescued.



Walk

From front page

were met by Patty Wetterling who greeted them in the cold morning air. And then hats were removed and a prayer was said.

"We know there is a lot of pain here," the speaker said. "We just ask you help both Patty and Jerry... and be with all the children that are missing, Lord. And bring them peace and love."

Then Mike Clark took a rifle from the coat and explained they would fire three shots. The speaker would fire a round, then hand the weapon to Jerry Wetterling who fired the second round and then back to another vet who fired the third and final round. Then the walkers resumed their journey.

"The walk went well," Clark said. "Anytime you arrive safely after three days, it's gone very well. It's a little more difficult to do three days without finding a few more ashes and pains given one ago."

Clark said folks along the way were extremely supportive of the walk. A guy came out of a pizza place in Anoka and gave the group pizza and pop. Several people honked their horns as a show of support.

"The purpose [of the walk] was to raise awareness of this issue, and I think the mission is accomplished," Clark said. "A true goal would be end child abduction, but that is not possible, but we can raise awareness and this is what we've done."

This will be the last long walk, Clark said, because the years of the long, walking that distance is too difficult, but he thinks perhaps shorter walks of five or six miles might be done in coming years. But like Goldmann, Clark

St. Joseph
Newsleader

Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009
Volume 20, Issue 50
Est. 1989

Postal Customer

Postal Patron

Walk for missing children culminates in St. Joseph

by Dave DeMars
daved@thenewsleaders.com

Back in the mid-1960s, thousands of young men went through military training to get them ready for combat in Vietnam. Part of that training was hiking. Units marched forever it seems. The men who marched off to war in those days are still walking (some with canes), only now they walk for another cause.

In December of 1989, Mike Clark organized his fellow Vietnam Vets for a three-day walk from Anoka to the home of Jerry and Patty Wetterling in St. Joseph in an effort to help the Wetterlings in their search for their son, Jacob, who had been abducted near his home in the fall of that year.

Since then these vets have done the three-day walk for all missing and abducted children on the 10th [illegible]

and a white Missing Children's Flag carried by Jerry Wetterling who joined the Vets on their walk. They walked the 62 miles from Anoka to the Wetterling home in St. Joseph.

As he walked, Ken Dufresne of Forest Lake explained his motivation for walking.

"I've been on all the walks but one," he said. "I can't tell you exactly why I walk – all my brothers [referring to the other vets], the Wetterling family, the missing children, the fact that I've been so blessed in my life – it's just time that I give something back."

We've done these walks for 20 years he said, but he's getting too old to do them any longer. He is hopeful someone else will take up the call and continue the walk, but many of the original walkers have passed on, or can no longer do them because of age and infirmity.



MONDAY, AUG. 31, 2009
Sunny and pleasant
High 74 | Low 49
Complete forecast 10A

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Wetterlings hold on to hope for Jacob

Kidnapped girl's story is encouraging to many

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See HOPE, 4A ▶



AP photo

Jerry Wetterling and wife Patty (left), show a photo of their son Jacob Wetterling on Friday in Minneapolis. Jacob was abducted in St. Joseph in 1989 and is still missing.

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ON THE NET:

http://www.missingkids.com/

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New lead pursued in Wetterling abduction



Richard Sennott/Star Tribune

Patty Wetterling spoke with members of the news media Wednesday in St. Joseph, Minn., about a development in the investigation of her son's abduction in 1989. Standing before posters at the Jacob Wetterling Foundation that seek information on other disappearances, she answered questions about a new theory that someone living near where 11-year-old Jacob was abducted may be responsible. **Turn to B3.**

5890-1699 It. 69 Sm+ Thursday Feb. 26, 2004 Metro/State Star Trib



Richard Sennott/Star Tribune

In front of the Jacob Wetterling Foundation in St. Joseph, Minn., Patty Wetterling spoke Wednesday about new information in her son Jacob's 1989 disappearance. A poster of missing college student Dru Sjodin is on the foundation's door, behind Wetterling.

A renewed plea to find Jacob

By Jill Burcum
and Richard Meryhew
Star Tribune Staff Writers

ST. JOSEPH, MINN — After more than 14 years of frustration, Patty Wetterling reacted with caution and weary optimism Wednesday to a new development in the abduction of her 11-year-old son Jacob.

Wetterling and her husband, Jerry, met with Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner for about an hour at the office of the foundation named for Jacob, who was abducted near their home in 1989.

She said the latest development suggests that someone living near the abduction site took Jacob, giving less credence to previous theories that someone in a car had driven off with him.

Wetterling called the development "significant" and said authorities "have reason to apply pressure, but not too much pressure" to a local man who has been interviewed by investigators.

The Wetterling abduction, which occurred Oct. 22, 1989, on a quiet rural road, became a national cause. Jacob, his brother Trevor, 10, and his best friend, Aaron Larson, 11, took off from the Wetterlings' house to pick up a video at a Tom Thumb, about a mile away. Two of the boys were on bikes; the third took a scooter.

They returned on a rural township road after renting a movie at the convenience store.

A masked man with a gun stepped out from a gravel road and ordered the boys off their bikes. He told Trevor and Aaron to run and to not look back or he would shoot. They ran, and when they finally looked back, Jacob was gone.

Authorities had been unable to dismiss the possibility that the abductor drove a vehicle because of tire tracks found near the scene.

However, the track may have been left by a curious motorist, who drove by the scene after hearing reports of the kidnapping on a police scanner. That motorist came forward last fall after a casual conversation with someone in law enforcement.

Wetterling said Wednesday that authorities told her they recently reviewed the 911 call, in which Trevor described the scene.

"It's very clear there was no vehicle," said Wetterling, who was away from home with her husband at the time of the abduction. "He said he didn't see a vehicle. He didn't hear a vehicle. He didn't hear a car door slam."

Sanner, the sheriff, declined to comment on the briefing with the Wetterlings.

Although Patty Wetterling provided few additional details from the meeting, she said she sensed a "renewed energy" in investigators working the case.

She said she and her husband have not had time to fully digest the developments, because the family has been dealing with the recent death of her sister.

But, she said, she has no "gut feeling" whether the man who took Jacob lived nearby or far away.

However, she said it is hard for her and others in St. Joseph to even consider that someone local might be involved.

"Who wants to think it could be somebody you know?" she said.

She renewed her plea Wednesday for anyone with information about Jacob to come forward. "I want the man who took Jacob to tell us where he is, to give us some answers," she said.

The writers are at
[illegible]@startribune.com.

5PD-1699 IP.69 Dru

New theory in kidnap case

Wetterling abductor may have been on foot

By Pat Doyle and Richard Marchew
Star Tribune Staff Writers

A new twist in the unsolved abduction of Jacob Wetterling has prompted authorities to focus on the possibility that the masked gunman who snatched the 11-year-old boy in October 1989 was on foot and not in a vehicle, as many had believed.



Jacob Wetterling

Authorities recently have been investigating whether a suspicious tire track found near the abduction scene was left by a curious motorist who drove by the scene after hearing reports of the kidnapping on a police scanner. A man claiming to be that motorist has come forward after he had a casual conversation with someone in law enforcement, authorities said Tuesday.

His story appears to offer an innocent explanation for the tire track, which some investigators had focused on for years as possible evidence that the abductor had been driving.

"The new information gives us an opportunity to look at things in a different way," said Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner. "We're now focused on a very real possibility that our abductor was on foot."

That information prompted authorities this month to search at least one home near the scene.

5890-1699 It 69 Jacob
WETTERLING continues on B5:
— Police questioned man earlier this month.

Case remains one of most mysterious in the nation

They questioned a man and released Otto pumpkin farmer, a cousin of the man said. The cousin also said the man received an envelope with the return address of the Stearns County Sheriff's Office. The envelope included a handwritten note signed by Jacob's mother, Patty Wetterling. It implored anyone with information about Jacob's disappearance to come forward.

Despite the new development, Patty Wetterling said Tuesday that she's not ready to dismiss the theory that her son's abductor left in a vehicle.

"For 14½ years we've been focusing on a car," she said. "So I'm not willing to throw the whole deal out."

In the years since the abduction, police have issued alerts for a variety of cars, but they failed to lead to a prime suspect. Investigators pursued more than 28,000 leads and questioned hundreds of people in a nationwide dragnet.

The man who has recently become a focus of police inquiry called authorities the night of the abduction to report a suspicious car turning around in his driveway, the relative said. Authorities have not called the man a suspect. The relative said the man is innocent, adding, "He just wouldn't do something like that. I don't think there is a chance in the world that he did it."

Star Tribune is not naming the man because he has not been charged with any crime.

The motorist who had been at the location of the abduction in 1989 said in an interview Tuesday that he stopped forward last fall after talking to a U.S. marshal who was a friend of a friend. "He thought it would be a good idea that I talk to someone — he thought there was some information I had that might be helpful," said the man, who asked to be identified only as Kevin, saying he feared for his family's safety.

The motorist said that on the night of the kidnapping he drove his car near the abduction site, where the boys' bikes were lying on the ground. He mentioned the bikes to a nearby St. Joseph police officer, but Sanner said Thursday that he could find no record that he had ever been interviewed.

The motorist said Stearns County investigators interviewed him after he came forward. He said they asked about the man who has become the focus of the inquiry. The motorist said he told investigators he didn't know him, and that investigators did not "tell me anything about who's a suspect

5890-1699 It 69 Jacob

The unsolving abduction remains one of the most notorious and mysterious kidnappings in the nation. Jacob, his younger brother, Trevor, and friend Aaron Larson, 11, took off from the Wetterlings' home on Oct. 22, 1989, to pick up a video at a nearby convenience store, about a mile away. Two of the boys were on bikes, the third took a scooter.

They returned on a rural township road after renting a movie. A masked man with a gun approached the boys and ordered them off their bikes. He looked at each boy and asked their ages, and they answered. The gunman then told Trevor and Aaron to run and not look back or he'd shoot. They ran, and when they finally looked back, Jacob was gone.

In the week after the kidnapping, hundreds of police and volunteers searched on foot through St. Joseph Township for any sign of the boy. Within a month of the abduction, federal, state and local investigators interviewed and cleared 525 potential suspects.

The writers are at pdoyle@startribune.com and richm@startribune.com.

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St. Cloud, MN, Vol. 9, No. 2 — October/November 2003 — Est. 1994



Eternal Hope

Wetterling Holds on for Jacob & Other Kids

Tells College Audience to 'Never Quit Believing'

Search for Abducted Wetterling Boy Continues on 14th Anniversary of Rare Kidnapping in St. Joseph

Mom Leads National Effort to Bring



abduction on Oct. 22, 1989. ... their missing children.

By Stuart Goldschen
Publisher & Editor

For Patty Wetterling of St. Joseph, perseverance has no bounds, despite its lack of promises and exacting demands. Only deep, eternal hope makes it relevant — and necessary.

Since the abduction of her 11-year-old son Jacob 14 years ago this month, Wetterling has lived with unflagging perseverance in the hope that he is alive and in the search for his whereabouts. She said, "You never quit; you never let go."

On the 14th anniversary of Jacob's kidnapping on Oct. 22, 1989, Wetterling believes today as strongly as then that Jacob will come home, and that other abducted children will be reunited with their families as well. She has dedicated her life's work to that end by tirelessly canvassing the country as a widely recognized child safety advocate and well-received child abduction expert.

Wetterling has been selected by the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* as one of the "100 most influential Minnesotans of the century" and has received the Minnesota governor's "leadership award for unique acts of kindness."

She appeared most recently in this area in a public presentation at St. Cloud State University (SCSU) at the invitation of the university's Women's Center in its "Women on Wednesday" speaker series and exhorted her mostly student audience to cling to hope.

"The important thing that I want all of you to know when you leave here today is that you never quit," she said. "You find something you believe in, you find something worth fighting for, and you don't quit.

"I don't look at my watch and flip the calendar and say, 'Gee, it's been a long time, [Jacob's] probably not coming home.' What if he's out there waiting to be found and we all just get tired and quit looking? I would never do that.

"I don't know what it is that you'll find in your life that is your passion, but don't ever let go. It's an important thing [to remember]."

Wetterling believed that from the moment of the abduction, and, with her husband Jerry, created the Jacob Wetterling Foundation (JWF) to promote child safety and assist other families in recovering their missing children. The nonprofit organization provides speakers on child safety throughout the state and has a 24-hour hotline (1-800-325-HOPE) for support and assistance nationwide.

Wetterling herself has appeared numerous times on national and regional television, met with prominent political, business and social figures, and connected with law enforcement officials and legal professionals nationwide in support of measures to prevent child abuse, sexual exploitation and abduction.

She was instrumental in successful efforts to pass a 1992 Minnesota law requiring the registration of sexual offenders and two similar federal laws, the 1994 Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children Sex Offender Registration Act and Megan's Law of 1996 for community notification of sex offenders.

Wetterling devotes most of her time advancing the JWF's programs and conducting child safety classes for law enforcement agencies throughout the country for the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. She is in constant demand as a speaker for schools, businesses and public forums on child protection and missing children issues.

In her SCSU appearance, Wetterling stressed the importance of vigilance for the recovery of Jacob and all missing children and for the protection of kids and youth from future victimization.

"We are searching for the man who took Jacob; he's got my son," she said. "[More importantly], there's a man out there who steals kids. What makes any other child in this state safe until we find who took Jacob?"

That reality underscores the importance, for Wetterling, of perseverance, even in the face of daunting odds. In Jacob's case, she said, approximately 40,000 leads have been received by law enforcement officials working on the case to date without producing a prime suspect or promising information.

"There have been all kinds of ups and downs along the way, but we've never felt like this is it, we're really close," she said. The search once turned up a kidnapped boy in Arizona who looked much like Jacob, however, and that boy, she noted with deep satisfaction, "got to go home because someone was aware of Jacob's story and called police."

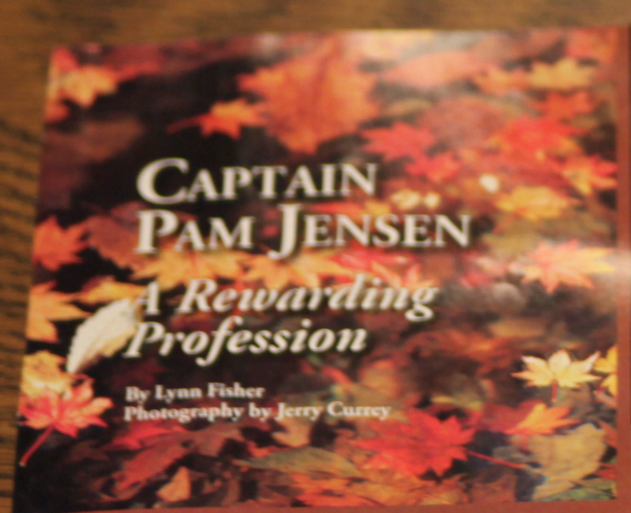
Other abducted children have been found as well. Wetterling pointed out, some as long as 10,17 and even 28 years after their disappearance. She said these cases are most often solved when the children and/or their captors are "discovered," not because the victim manage to escape.

"Abducted children seldom come running forward and say, 'Look I was kidnapped, I was forced to do these sexual things, I was photographed, I was told my parents don't want me anymore because I'm dirty, and I was told that if I tried to escape they're going to take my brother. Please help.'

"That doesn't happen. Most kids come home because they're

(see JACOB, p. 10)

> ***'The important thing that I want all of you to know when you leave here today is that you never quit. You find something you believe in, you find something worth fighting for, and you don't quit.'***
>
> — Patty Wetterling





Some people that you meet by chance, or by plan, are set in the pattern of life exactly, from birth, just as they should be.

When you meet Captain Pam Jensen, 47, of Stearns County, you get the feeling that all must be right with the world. This dedicated police officer, in a position of authority, in a still male dominated profession, is enjoying a lengthy career in law enforcement; what she was surely destined for. Everything about her- her experiences, what drives her and her fascination with the all too human "puzzle" that is sometimes crime- has pointed her to a rewarding career in this field for 25 years.

Two women in law enforcement class

Pam attended the Alexandria Technical College for Law Enforcement in the early 80s, along with Police Chief Ramona (Mona) Dohman, 46, of the City of Maple Grove. This was at a time when society had been challenged, sometimes legally, to become more open to women in this profession. That transition did not come easily.

From her office overlooking Main Street in Maple Grove, Mona, originally from the small town of Vesta, Minnesota, and the granddaughter of a one time Chief of Police in that same town, explains that as fiercely as she wanted to become a police officer, the opposition, at the time, was sometimes just as fierce.

"I had a teacher at Alex (Alexandria Technical College)," remembers Mona, "that said, 'women in law enforcement…you'll never make it.' Looking back over the last 26 years, literally, when I pray I thank the people that told me I couldn't, because they are the ones that helped me get where I am."

Pam Jensen, Captain of the Sheriff's Department of Stearns County, and mother of two (Joe, 22, a police officer in Sauk Centre, and Jessie, 19) is married to Chief of Police John Jensen of Melrose, the town where the couple has lived since returning from a short working stint in the Dakotas in the early 1980s.

No doubt about her profession

"In the early years I felt that I wasn't getting a fair shake and people doubted that I could do the job," explains Pam. "I can honestly say I never felt that I didn't get something because of it (being a woman), I just think sometimes you might have to work a little bit harder. I have a pretty good sense of humor so I think that once they got to know who (I was) it worked out fine…but I think maybe there was a little doubt in people's minds when I first started."

When asked about the difficulties of being a police officer in general and often involved with humanity at its worst, the conversation is further proof of Pam's commitment to the public.

As the lead investigator on the Jacob Wetterling case since 1999, Pam explains that ongoing investigation still takes up quite a lot of her time, and she has remained in contact with the Wetterling family consistently throughout.

How It Happened

Patty Wetterling Recounts Story of Son Jacob's Kidnapping

3 Kids Suprised by Masked Gunman on Night Bike Ride to Video Store

By Patty Wetterling



Patty Wetterling

gave me kids the phone number [there].

Then they called again — and this is the third time we talked to

Trevor was 10, Aaron 11, Jacob 11. He told Trevor to run into the

they don't know who took Jacob, where is he, what happened."

(JACOB from p. 1)

discovered...Please understand that kidnapped victims don't walk [from their captivity]."

How they're taken in the first place varies from case to case, but there are enough similarities to warrant sex offender profiles that law enforcement officials use in educating the public to the problem.

The first factor, Wetterling explained, is the myth of "stranger danger," or the false belief that lurking strangers pose the largest threat to children and youth within the general population.

"Statistically, most of the time it's not a stranger [that abducts children]," she noted. "We threw the word 'stranger' out of our foundation's educational material because it's confusing to kids and it doesn't even apply most of the time...

"We know that [victimizers] are often the coach, the minister, or the next-door neighbor who befriends [a child]."

Other myths about child abduction, according to Wetterling, include the belief that kidnappers are "dirty old men" and mentally ill. She said statistics show that 71 percent of abductors are under the age of 35, most are of normal intelligence, and many are "very bright, cunning and manipulative."

"An offender is likely to be a white male, 25 to 30 years old, in an unskilled or semiskilled job, with a very low self image, and likely to have committed similar crimes in the past and failed," she said. "We put a lot of emphasis on attempted abductions because we believe these [offenders] learn from their mistakes and you have to catch them before they are successful."

The perpetrators generally victimize for sexual purposes, Wetterling noted, and are often victims themselves of child sexual abuse. She said they typically begin preying by age 15, use well-developed techniques for their crimes, and victimize vast numbers of children before being reported.

Kids and youth commonly fall prey to their lures, which Wetterling described as "much more sophisticated than [offers of] candy and money." She said kidnappers approach young victims with questions such as these: "Will you help me find my puppy? I've got a doll collection; would you like to come in and choose one? I've got friends that can get you on the cover of a teen magazine; can I take your picture?"

Wetterling said the number-one lure is attention and affection because everyone wants to be loved and made to feel special. Youth, ages 11-17, suffer the highest rate of victimization, she noted, which begins increasingly more often these days with Internet connections and blind relationships.

"Be very careful about what you do on the Internet," she said, "and know that when you are on [it] you're in public." She warned that "people aren't always who they seem to be on the Internet," and counseled children and youth not to reveal personal information when using the medium.

For kids on the street — or in the home — staying safe is the product of preparation and making wise choices, Wetterling said. She advised parents to play "what if" games with their children to train them for a variety of questionable encounters.

"What would you do," she asked, "if the neighbor invites you in for hot chocolate and then shows you some dirty pictures that you don't think your parents would like you to see? What would you do if the coach invites you to come over after a game and starts this tickling match with all of the kids and it doesn't feel right? What would you do if your best friend's older brother touches you in places or ways that you don't like?"

Above all, Wetterling stressed, kids need to know that they are special, that nobody has the right to hurt them, that it's not their fault if something bad happens to them, and that they should not keep their victimization a secret.

"We're not always with our children, so it's important to empower them and tell them to trust their instincts," she said.

Parents should understand, however, that they bear the prime responsibility for protecting their children, Wetterling added. She said, "It's not the kids' job to not get taken, it's our job."

And when kids *are* taken from their families, it's our job as well, Wetterling would add, to look for them and bring them home — with hope in our souls and perseverance in our bones.

Yoga Instruction
with Richard Chandler
253-8029

The Jacob Wetterling Foundation
Protecting children from sexual exploitation and abduction

Online Safety Tips

1. Never give out identifying information such as Name, Home Address, School Name, or Telephone Number in a public message such as at a chat room or on bulletin boards. Never send a person a picture of you without first checking with your parent or guardian.

2. Tell your parent, guardian or teacher right away if you come across or any time any information that makes you feel uncomfortable.

3. Never arrange a face to face meeting without telling your parent or guardian. If your parent [illegible] meeting, make sure that [illegible] a public place and have a parent [illegible]

For more information, visit:
www.jwf.org

The Jacob Wetterling Foundation
[illegible] Minnesota Street
[illegible], MN 56374
320-363-0676
1-800-325-HOPE

SATURDAY Feb. 28, 2004

Globetrotters' opponents know why they're here: To lose

Nationals try to make it competitive in fun-filled exhibition at SJU

► Pro basketball

By Frank Rajkowski
frajkowski@stcloudtimes.com

COLLEGEVILLE — Like Dean Martin with Jerry Lewis and Sonny with Cher, Shawn Faust and his teammates on the New York Nationals know their role is to serve as straight men for the Harlem Globetrotters.

Faust doesn't mind being the butt of the joke. Nor does he mind always coming up on the short end of the final score. He knows that without the Nationals, the Globetrotters' act just wouldn't be the same.

"We try to play them competitive a lot of the time, but we want it to be a fun show," said Faust, whose team pleased a capacity crowd of more than 2,500 Friday night at Warner Palaestra's Sexton Arena by once again falling for the Globetrotters' pranks, looking on as they pulled audience members from the stands and finally losing 71-51.

"We try to roll with things a lot of the time," Faust said. "We want to make it look good."

Despite the way it might appear, the Nationals are not basketball novices. Faust was a regular contributor the past two seasons at the University of West Florida before hooking on with the Nationals after attending a camp in Orlando.

"It's been a great way to see a lot of different places and to play for a lot of different people," Faust said. "We all have a lot of fun out there."

The Nationals replaced the Washington Generals, who closed their camp for good in 1995, as the Globetrotters' primary on-court foils. Though they play each other in more than 100 "exhibitions" per year, members of the two teams travel separately.

"Everybody thinks it's fake, fake, fake, but we do go at them hard on almost every possession," said Neil King, who is on his second tour with the Nationals and played college basketball at C.W. Post (N.Y.). "It's more competitive than people might know. But in the end, we basically do this for the kids. We want to send them home happy. That's what we're all out there for."

Fans in attendance Friday seemed satisfied.

Todd McKee of St. Cloud brought along his 11-year-old son and his friends.

"We're celebrating his 11th birthday," McKee said. "I always wanted to see the Globetrotters when I was a kid, so he's getting the chance to live out one of my childhood wishes."

Joe Pennington of St. Cloud brought his wife and two daughters to watch the Globetrotters play.

Pennington said the Globetrotters hold a cultural importance.

"To me, they are a symbol," Pennington said. "Way back when, black players weren't allowed in a lot of the white leagues, so the Globetrotters were where you saw them play. They are a part of our history."



Times photo by Adam Masloski, amasloski@stcloudtimes.com

Shawn Faust of the New York Nationals runs around in circles trying to get the ball from the Globetrotters' Curley "Boo" Johnson on Friday at Collegeville.

SSRO-1699 Lt. 69 Pnt

Globetrotters bring their traveling show to SJU

2/27/04
St. Cloud Times Friday

By Frank Rajkowski
frajkowski@stcloudtimes.com

COLLEGEVILLE — The Harlem Globetrotters are in their 78th season of entertaining fans and the team's mix of basketball skill and on-court shenanigans remains largely unchanged.

Nevertheless, Globetrotters guard Eathan O'Bryant said Central Minnesotans can expect a few new wrinkles when his team takes the court against the New York Nationals at 7 p.m. today at Warner Palaestra's Sexton Arena.

"There's a couple of new things we've added to the act that we came up with in training camp," said the 5-foot-11 O'Bryant, in his eighth season with the team. "Some of them involve crowd participation. If I gave them away in advance, the rest of the guys would kill me."

Tickets remain and can be purchased for $18. The Sexton Arena ticket window opens at 2:30 p.m.



Eathan O'Bryant
Says team has added to act

"This year's theme is 'Bigger, Better and More Fun' and it's true," said O'Bryant, a former standout at the University of Nevada. "I'm still a fan of the show even though I've been in it for awhile now."

The Globetrotters have played in 117 countries before more than 120 million fans. Their show includes a 30-minute session at the game's conclusion allowing fans to meet the players.

"A typical week during the season means playing up to seven or eight games in seven days," O'Bryant said. "Of course, fatigue can set in, mentally and physically. But what keeps us motivated is knowing that every night we're playing in front of people who are seeing the Harlem Globetrotters for the first time. We want to put on a good show for them. That keeps you from thinking too much about the travel."

O'Bryant said the team always looks forward to performing in Minnesota. Their current swing through the state also includes a stop Saturday at the Target Center in Minneapolis.

"Minnesota is one of our favorite stops to make, even though it always seems like it's cold when we get there," O'Bryant said. "It's a place the guys really like coming to."

Since the Washington Generals closed camp in 1995, the Nationals have assumed the role of the Globetrotters' perennially "overmatched" opponent and the butt of many of their jokes.

"You'd think those guys would start to catch on, but they haven't," O'Bryant said with a chuckle. "So far, so good."

Tips come in after reports on Wetterling

May 8, 2004 St. Cloud Times

By Kelly Scott
kscott@stcloudtimes.com

Stearns County investigators received about two dozen tips Friday after media reports renewed the public's interest in the 1989 abduction of Jacob Wetterling.

Sheriff John Sanner said he didn't know whether any of the tips would turn into serious information, but his investigators planned to check them out.

"Obtaining information from the public is a piece of what this investigation is about," Sanner said. "We'll figure out if the information fits into the bigger puzzle."

The tips came after KARE aired a two-day series about possible links between the Wetterling case and the abduction and sexual assault of a 12-year-old Cold Spring boy. The Cold Spring case happened in January 1989, about 10 months before Wetterling was taken.



John Sanner
Investigators will check on tips

The Cold Spring victim said he believed his case was linked to the Wetterling abduction. Authorities had investigated that possibility shortly after Wetterling's disappearance. Sanner said that while a link is possible, new information uncovered last fall made it less likely than before.

That new information led investigators to rule out the driver of a long-sought car from the abduction site. The revelation introduced the possibility that Wetterling's attacker was on foot when he snatched the 11-year-old boy from 91st Avenue, just southeast of St. Joseph.

Wetterling had been riding his bike home with his friend and brother when a masked gunman approached them. The gunman disappeared with Wetterling and told the others to run away.

Wetterling has never been found and no one has been arrested in the case.

5890-1699 Jt. 69 Snt

Information

Anyone with information about the Wetterling abduction or the abduction and sexual assault of a boy in Cold Spring should call the sheriff's department.

Authorities also encourage people to call if they have information about unreported child abductions or sexual assaults that might have happened about the same time.

Call the Stearns County Sheriff's Department at 251-4240 or the Jacob Wetterling Foundation at 363-0470.

5940-1699 I-94 exit

Police ask people to help in Wetterling case

St. Cloud Times

Friday Feb. 27, 2004

By Kelly Scott
kscott@stcloudtimes.com

The Stearns County Sheriff's Department issued a statement Wednesday urging people to call authorities with information about the 1989 abduction of Jacob Wetterling.

The statement came after sheriff's officials said earlier this week that they were refocusing the case.

A new theory that the kidnapper could have been on foot and lived near the rural St. Joseph abduction site has developed.

New information from the driver of a long-sought vehicle reportedly seen at the abduction site allowed investigators to rule out the involvement of that vehicle in the abduction.

Wetterling, 11, was taken Oct. 22, 1989, from 91st Avenue, southeast of St. Joseph, as he rode his bike home with his brother and a friend.

A masked gunman approached the children, took Jacob and told the other children to run. No one has been arrested and Jacob has never been found.

Sheriff John Sanner said investigators have been re-examining suspects who couldn't be ruled out earlier. He also said the information didn't completely rule out that a vehicle was used but did diminish that possibility.

The suspects investigators are talking with have been identified for years as potential suspects, he said.

The new information is allowing investigators to focus on a smaller group of possible suspects, Sanner said.

Investigators are continuing to interview people, gather additional evidence and receive new information, Sanner said. Sanner declined Thursday to give details of the interviews or evidence.

Sanner encouraged people to think back to the abduction and let authorities know any information that could be relevant to the case. He urged people to call, regardless of how trivial the information might seem.

"In most cases, this being no exception, public input is critical," he said. "Your information could prove to be the missing puzzle piece needed by investigators to resolve this case and provide closure for the family and community."



AP photo

Patty Wetterling talks Wednesday to the media outside the Jacob Wetterling Foundation's office in St. Joseph about new information regarding her son, Jacob Wetterling, who was abducted in 1989.

How to help

Anyone with information about Jacob Wetterling's abduction should call the Stearns County Sheriff's Department at 259-3700, the Jacob Wetterling Foundation at 363-0470 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 255-1301.

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Investigators explore new path in Wetterling case

Kidnapper may have been on foot, not in car

By Kelly Scott
kscott@sctimes.com

For the more than 14 years investigators have searched for answers to Jacob Wetterling's abduction, puzzling questions about a vehicle reported near the site remained.

Who was the driver? And was he involved in the disappearance of the 11-year-old St. Joseph boy?

Investigators now have some answers as the long-sought driver of a vehicle that was reportedly seen near the Oct. 22, 1989, abduction site came forward to authorities. Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner said that while investigators are continuing to follow up with the driver, they don't believe he's a suspect.



Jacob Wetterling
Missing since October 1989

That turn of events has led investigators to refocus on another theory: The kidnapper might have been on foot and lived nearby, Sanner said.

Investigators haven't found Jacob, who was taken by a masked man at gunpoint, and no one has been arrested in connection with his abduction.

Last week, investigators interviewed a potential suspect who lived near the abduction site, Sanner said. Investigators have interviewed hundreds of potential suspects during the investigation, and something such as last week's interview wasn't unusual, he said.

Sanner declined to discuss details of any potential suspect or interview with him, saying he first wanted to talk with Jacob's parents, Patty and Jerry Wetterling. The Wetterlings didn't return phone messages Tuesday from the Times.

"It's a real possibility that our suspect lives within the general vicinity of the abduction," Sanner said. "We're rethinking the entire

See CASE, 4A ▶

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From Page 1A

Case

scenario. The abduction could've occurred with the perpetrator on foot."

Deputies have long looked for a vehicle that a witness reported seeing near the abduction site on 91st Avenue in St. Joseph Township. But authorities could never identify the driver. Without that, they couldn't determine whether the vehicle was involved.

In October, the driver of the vehicle contacted authorities. He told them that he had driven to the site out of curiosity, turned around and then left, Sanner said. Calls to the driver of the vehicle Tuesday weren't returned to the Times.

Sanner said the driver told authorities that in 1989 he had given his name and explanation for being there to an officer at the abduction scene. No record of the conversation exists, Sanner said.

"Maybe the officer didn't think that it was important at the time," Sanner said of why no officer kept a record of the encounter.

Sanner said his investigators, some of whom are new to the case, don't have any new evidence or suspects. Since the abduction, investigators have gone through about 30,000 leads, Sanner said. It's been considered an active case, meaning deputies and detectives still work on it regularly.

Boxes of evidence, witnesses and other paperwork fill several feet of shelving in the sheriff's department. All of it relates to the case that shook St. Joseph and surrounding areas, gathering national attention and spurring a nonprofit organization named after Jacob dedicated to helping protect children.

Wetterling case gets new focus

The Stearns County Sheriff's Department is revisiting the Jacob Wetterling case because newly revealed information could mean that his abductor might not have used a vehicle.

On Oct. 22, 1989, the day the 11-year-old Wetterling was taken, a vehicle was seen in the area on 91st Avenue in St. Joseph Township where the abduction happened. Immediately after and ever since, law enforcement officials spent a lot of time trying to find out what kind of vehicle it was and any clues about the driver.

However, recently a man from the area came forward to say he had driven to the abduction site that day because he had heard about the incident and had wanted to see if he could help out. The man said at the time he told an officer at the scene he drove there out of curiosity but somehow his communication wasn't recorded. As a result, investigators assumed for years that Wetterling was likely abducted by a masked man with a handgun in a vehicle.

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Wetterling • Page 5

5890-1699 I-69 Stnr

Wetterling

From front page

Last fall, the driver met a federal marshall at a party, and the federal marshall encouraged the man to explain to Wetterling investigators how he was at the scene that evening with his vehicle. That information is what caused a re-focus in the case.

In light of that new information, investigators are re-focusing on the possibility the man who took Wetterling may have done so on foot and may have lived in the area. An investigator recently re-interviewed a man who lives in the area near the abduction, although he is just one of hundreds of local people who have been interviewed.

In the meantime, law enforcement officials plan to meet with Wetterling's parents to review the case, which has never been officially closed.

At the time Wetterling was abducted, he was on his way home with his brother and a friend after buying treats at a Tom Thumb store. The man appeared on the road and told the two boys to run into the woods and then took Jacob.

Parties square off on gun-maker



L.A. Times/Washington Post photo

Eric Nordmark spent 251 days in a Orange County, Calif., jail for a crime that was never committed. Nordmark is contemptuous of police efforts to prosecute his young accusers, who said they were molested.

Imprisoned by girls' lies, man considered suicide

Drifter spent 251 days in jail before accusers admitted it was a hoax

L.A. Times/Washington Post

> (Officers were) high-fiving each other. ... They said, 'You're under arrest for assault with a deadly weapon. The weapon is your hands.'
>
> **Eric Nordmark**
>
> On officers who arrested him for a crime that never happened

Wrongfully imprisoned by the lies of three girls, Eric Nordmark resolved to take matters into his own hands if convicted of assault and child molestation.

Demoralized by 251 days in a Southern California jail, the 36-year-old drifter devised a plan, he said: He would smuggle a razor blade stuck to his skin with bar-code labels from the jail commissary. Then, awaiting sentencing in the courthouse holding cell, he'd slice open his carotid artery.

Better that end, he decided, than a long stretch in the company of inmates notoriously brutal toward child molesters, followed by a lifetime of stigma if he survived incarceration. "My mind was made up," he said.

Fortunately for Nordmark, two days into his trial, the 12-year-old girl who was his principal accuser admitted the attack never occurred. The girl said the entire story about the attack in a Garden Grove, Calif., park on May 20, 2003, was a hoax concocted by her and two friends of similar age as an excuse for getting home late from school.

On Jan. 26, the defendant's waking bad dream abruptly ended. Nordmark, a college dropout and former U.S. Army mortar man from Wisconsin, was set free.

The arrest

An itinerant laborer who follows the weather, Nordmark had spent much of last winter in San Diego County, where he readily blended in with Ocean Beach's melange of barflies, hikers and laid-back hippies. The place was friendly territory for an aimless man with self-advertised "contra issues," a taste for drink and a strong desire for anonymity.

By May 2003, he was ready to go to the Pacific Northwest. Three days after departing, Nordmark spent a night in jail for public drunkenness in Anaheim, where he had hoped to meet a friend for the journey north. He was released May 15.

Late the following afternoon, he was searching for cigarette butts in neighboring Garden Grove when he was approached by a police officer. The next thing he knew, he was handcuffed and made to sit on a curb. "I asked if I was being arrested, or what?" he said. "He said I was being detained – that I matched a description."

A police car cruised by twice, stopping each time close to him while its occupants looked him over. The officers, he said, disinterested in arrest but in no suspicion of public drunkenness if he did not come to the Garden Grove police station to be photographed. He complied, and was released.

Later that day, he happened on the site of the annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival. He was promised work setting up carnival rides the following Tuesday, May 20. He wanted "a pocketful of cash" for a bus ticket to the Northwest.

On the 20th, Nordmark said, he put in 13 hours of work at the festival. He had just returned to the festival grounds after buying beer and tobacco when police arrived. He said he heard someone call his name, and when he turned in response, he was handcuffed.

"They're high-fiving each other," Nordmark said of two officers. "As the handcuffs were being placed, they said, 'You're under arrest for assault with a deadly weapon. The weapon is your hands.' I said, 'Those hands got deadly if you're a youngster in Thailand,' where he was born to an Army nurse and an engineer.

Nordmark said he was

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Answers in Wetterling case elude, but hope doesn't

Reminders of the boy taken 14 years ago remain, inspire those hunting for closure

By Kelly Scott
kscott@stcloudtimes.com

It was before Dru Sjodin became a household name, before Elizabeth Smart captured the nation's attention, before Amber Hagerman was kidnapped and killed, becoming the Amber Alert's namesake.

Before countless missing children came into people's homes through media alerts and milk cartons, St. Joseph had its own kidnapped boy: 11-year-old Jacob Erwin Wetterling. His abduction turned the national spotlight on missing children.

"It was the most highly publicized missing-child case since the Lindbergh baby," said Carol Watson, who has been working on missing-child cases for 20 years.

Jacob's 1989 abduction captured people's hearts and attention. People prayed for him. Small-town residents didn't feel safe. The community rallied with shows of support, including 5,000 people clasping hands to form a human chain from St. Cloud to St. Joseph. Jacob's parents, Patty and Jerry Wetterling, never rested, taking their pleas for information to people through the local, state and national media.

More than 14 years have passed and investigators still have no word of Jacob's fate, no arrests. But last week, energy returned to the investigation, leading people to wonder whether an end to the unsettling story of Jacob's kidnapping could come soon.

Investigators said new information led them to believe the kidnapper could have been on foot when he snatched the boy from a



Patty Wetterling
Still has hope

See HOPE, 6A ▶

■ Timeline of the first days after abduction/6A

Information



Anyone with information about Jacob Wetterling's abduction should call the Stearns County Sheriff's Department at 259-3700, the Jacob Wetterling Foundation at 363-0470 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 255-1301.

From Page 1A

Hope



Photo photo by Jason Wachter, jwachter@stcloudtimes.com

On the 10th anniversary of Jacob Wetterling's disappearance, 10,000 colored balloons were released at Kennedy Elementary School in St. Joseph. The balloons illustrated a message of hope.

Clear confidence

Even though detectives have come and gone, someone in the Stearns County Sheriff's Department has always been assigned to investigate Jacob Wetterling's abduction. A "Missing" poster with his face hangs in the department's lobby.



John Sanner
Officials continue to look for answers

"It's probably one of the largest, if not the largest, criminal investigations in Minnesota," Sheriff John Sanner said. "We still have a young boy missing and parents who don't know where he's at."

At least 30,000 tips have come to investigators. Rarely does a week go by when at least a call isn't made on the case, he said. It's still active, which is why an interview with a potential suspect more than a week ago wasn't unusual.

Investigators had long looked for a vehicle that matched a tire track left near the abduction site the night Jacob was kidnapped. The driver of that vehicle came forward in October, and authorities have ruled him out as a suspect.

That new information turned the investigation back to the start, Patty Wetterling said. No one initially reported that a car was involved. Authorities searched near and far, still wondering about that tire track.

"With every hour that passed then, we believed that Jacob was being taken farther away," Wetterling said. "The investigators are revisiting the beginning. It's such a limited area."

Jacob was taken about 9:15 p.m. Oct. 22, 1989, from 91st Avenue, southeast of St. Joseph. He was riding his bike home with his brother and a friend. They'd just been to a Tom Thumb store where they'd rented a movie, "The Naked Gun."

A masked gunman came out of a ditch or a side road, telling Trevor Wetterling in a rough voice to turn off his flashlight. The boys were told to throw their bikes into a ditch and lie down on the ground.

After asking each boy's age, the gunman looked at Trevor Wetterling's 10-year-old face, then ordered him to run for the nearby woods. Don't look back, he told the boy, or he'd shoot. The gunman then told 11-year-old Aaron Larson to do the same.

The boys ran, and when they turned to look for Jacob, he and the gunman were gone. The boys continued running home, where their baby sitter's father called 911.

Community impact

Reminders of Jacob Wetterling live everywhere in the St. Cloud area. A bridge on Minnesota Highway 15 is named for Jacob. Several trees have been planted in his memory.



Larry Hosch
Case is a part of town's identity

"It's a big part of St. Joe," said Mayor Larry Hosch, who was about Jacob's age when the abduction happened. "It's an identifying factor for St. Joseph. St. Joseph became that place where that Wetterling abduction happened."

A corner of downtown St. Joseph probably is the most prominent reminder of Jacob's abduction. It's the local office of the Jacob Wetterling Foundation, a nonprofit organization started by his parents dedicated to protecting children.

Patty Wetterling has become a national expert on child safety. She's credited with several state and national legislative accomplishments, including Minnesota's 1992 Sex Offender Registration Law. She also played a prominent role in establishing the Amber Alert system in Minnesota. At one point, officials thought about naming it after Jacob.

Watson, who is Missing Children Minnesota's executive director, said Jacob's kidnapping brought child-safety issues to the forefront of parents' minds.

Sometimes when high-profile crimes happen, people try to distance themselves from the victims, she said. That approach helps people feel safe because they believe they're not similar to the victim so the crime couldn't happen to them.

"There was no way to distance yourself from these people," Watson said. "The Wetterlings were good, nice people. They did everything you were supposed to do. There was no way to make them responsible. That made people believe this could happen anywhere."

Dave Theisen, 50, remembers Jacob's abduction as St. Joseph's turning point. Everyone thought about safety, the lifelong St. Joseph resident said. Parents watched their children. People didn't walk alone anymore.

The community embraced the Wetterlings, said Dick Bades, 58,



Jim Kostreba
Believes answers could be near

Kostreba, who was chief deputy when Jacob was kidnapped, was involved in the case as from its start. He said he leaned toward believing a car was involved because of the circumstances. The new information makes him believe that getting the case back into the minds of people will help solve it.

"No case isn't worth re-examining," said Everett Doolittle, who is retired from leading the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's Cold Case Unit. "Every case is dying to be solved. The answer is out there somewhere."

Doolittle, who was involved with the Wetterling investigation as a BCA agent, said going back to the start is often a part of solving old cases. Investigators need to gather every bit of documentation, look for links, reanalyze the information and revisit leads that perhaps were cleared and shouldn't have been, he said.

"It's about going back to the basics," Doolittle said. "It's about making sure that all the 'I's were dotted and 'T's were crossed."

Doolittle's Cold Case Unit used the same techniques to solve two other high-profile Central Minnesota crimes: the 1992 killing of Linda Jensen in Big Lake Township and the 1978 murders of Alan Hulling and her three children in their Fairhaven Township home.

"In almost every case, the person told someone," Doolittle said. "The answer is out there somewhere. The key is to find it. Time becomes your friend for that, not your enemy."

Chronology of the first days

■ Oct. 22, 1989 — Seven-year-old Jacob Trevor Wetterling is abducted by a masked gunman and shot 9:15 p.m. along 91st Avenue, southeast of St. Joseph.

A short time later, St. Joseph firefighters and about 20 officers from the Stearns County Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies search the area. Two local FBI agents and five from Minneapolis are assigned to the case.

A state helicopter equipped with a search light is flown in to probe nearby woods and fields. Authorities establish a command post at the Del-Win Ballroom in St. Joseph. Searchers are called off about 3 a.m. until daybreak.

■ **Oct. 23, 1989** — The search resumes about 8 a.m. with Department of Natural Resources officers using all-terrain vehicles to look for Jacob in woods and fields within a two-mile radius of the abduction site. Helicopters fly over a 25-square-mile area. A Minneapolis bloodhound leads officers to tire tracks, prompting officers to believe that the kidnapper had a car nearby.

People call in tips to a Tri-County Crime Stoppers hotline and the sheriff's department is flooded with phone calls from people offering help. By 1:30 p.m., "Missing" fliers are distributed. Photos are sent to law enforcement agencies in a five-state area.

About 4 p.m., at least 75 College of St. Benedict students begin a 1½-mile prayer march from the campus to the Del-Win Ballroom. Two hours later, about 250 people lead a second march. College students help distribute fliers.

Investigators begin checking on inmates recently released from Minnesota Correctional Facility-St. Cloud. A man staying in an Avon motel is questioned.

■ **Oct. 24, 1989** — An FBI expert in psychological profiles flies in from Washington to join about 14 other investigators.

■ **Oct. 25, 1989** — Authorities receives several tips that a small red car had been seen in St. Joseph in the past three weeks. About two dozen red cars in the area are investigated.

An FBI profile describes the abductor as a white man, 25 to 35, employed in a low-skilled job with a low self-image probably stemming from a physical deformity such as acne or scars.

About 500 people gather in St. Joseph Church to pray and offer strength to the Wetterlings.

■ **Oct. 26, 1989** — At 11:30 a.m., about 30 horses and riders from at least five southern Minnesota counties form a search party and begin searching one mile east of St. Joseph.

About 50 officers, including at least 20 FBI agents, sift through hundreds of tips. A group of anonymous Twin Cities business leaders offers a $100,000 reward for Jacob's safe return within 72 hours.

"A Current Affair," a nationally syndicated television program, broadcasts Jacob's story. Community volunteers distribute white ribbons with "Jacob's Hope" printed on them.

■ **Oct. 27, 1989** — Authorities dismiss the theory that the gunman escaped in a red car. An art student said he was in the area looking for scenes to sketch and may have appeared suspicious to some residents.

The Wetterlings appear on "CBS This Morning." At 7 a.m., radio stations statewide broadcast Jacob's favorite song, "Listen," by Red Grammer.

Gov. Rudy Perpich offers National Guard troops' help in looking for Jacob. Officials release an artist's sketch of a man who tried to abduct a Stearns County boy earlier that summer, believing the two incidents could have involved the same man.

■ **Oct. 28, 1989** — About 240 Guard members, volunteers and law enforcement officers scour several square miles around the abduction site while three helicopters conduct an air search. A white sweat sock is found about 100 yards from the site, but a Minneapolis bloodhound can't track its scent farther than a nearby road.

Tri-County Crime Stoppers adds to the reward money, bringing the total to $125,000. St. Peter's and Paul's Middle School has a rally in the Municipal Sports Center parking lot.

■ **Oct 29, 1989** — An additional 100 National Guard members join the search. Hundreds of white "Jacob's Hope" balloons are released after Sunday services at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Between 7:30 and 10 p.m., road blocks are set up in St. Joseph. About 2,000 motorists are stopped and questioned by the State Patrol.

At 11 p.m., the $100,000 reward established by Twin Cities businesses expires.

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Sheriff's officials, Wetterlings discuss new twist

Information that kidnapper may have been on foot, not in vehicle, prompts the meeting

By Kelly Scott
kscott@stcloudtimes.com

ST. JOSEPH — Patty and Jerry Wetterling met Wednesday with Stearns County sheriff's officials to discuss new turns in the investigation into the abduction of their son, Jacob.

"No one ever quit the search. Our goal is still to find Jacob," Wetterling said while sitting in a St. Joseph office of the Jacob Wetterling Foundation surrounded by books, photos and fliers about missing children.

"I've always wanted to find my son," she said.

The meeting came after authorities received new information that ruled out a long-sought vehicle that was seen at the Oct. 22, 1989, abduction site. That turned the focus of the case back to the areas nearest the site, and led authorities to believe that Jacob's kidnapper could have lived nearby and been on foot when he took the 11-year-old boy.



Patty Wetterling
'No one ever quit the search'

Jacob was riding his bike home with his brother and a friend when a masked man approached them on 91st Avenue in St. Joseph. The man flashed a gun and told the other two boys to run away or he'd shoot them. No one has found Jacob and no one has been arrested in connection with his abduction.

Sheriff's officials had discussed the turns with the family before Wednesday's meeting but reaffirmed them after recent media reports drew attention to the investigation. They also promised to continue working on the case, Wetterling said.

Last week, authorities interviewed a potential suspect who lived near the site. Authorities have cautioned that they've interviewed hundreds of potential suspects, and last week's interview wasn't unusual.

Sheriff John Sanner declined again Wednesday to talk about any potential suspects. And Wetterling said the family was given no details about any suspects in its meeting with sheriff's officials.

Wetterling said this isn't the first time a twist in the

See TWIST, 4A ▶

5890-1699 IA 69 dmp

Sheriff cautious on abduction links

Victim sees several similarities to Wetterling case

By Kelly Scott
kscott@stcloudtimes.com

The possibility of a connection between the 1989 abduction of Jacob Wetterling and another abduction about 10 months earlier in Cold Spring is less promising than once thought, the Stearns County sheriff said.

In the earlier case, a 12-year-old boy was abducted, sexually assaulted and left in a rural ditch. It had some similarities to the Wetterling case, which involved an 11-year-old boy being taken by a masked gunman, Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner said.

Whether a link existed between those two cases has been investigated since Wetterling was taken in October 1989, he said.

Information revealed last fall led investigators to rule out a long-sought car driver in the case. It also led investigators to believe any link between the two unsolved cases is weaker than once thought because they now believe Wetterling's abductor could have been on foot when he snatched the boy, Sanner said.

"It strengthened the likelihood that they aren't related," Sanner said.

5890-1699 Jt. 69 Stns

See LINKS, 3B ▶

From Page 1B

Links

The victim in the Cold Spring abduction and sexual assault declined to talk to the Times but talked on camera to Twin Cities television station KARE, identified only as Jared. The story aired Wednesday night, identifying links the victim sees between his case and Wetterling's abduction.

Times policy is to not name victims of sexual assault unless the victim wants to be named publicly. Even though the victim appeared on television, he said he fears for his safety and that of his family because his abductor was never caught.

Sanner said authorities ran parallel investigations into the Cold Spring case and the Wetterling abduction. Investigators released a composite sketch of the man wanted in connection with the Cold Spring case in December 1989. Investigators said then that they wanted to talk to the man in connection with the Wetterling case, too. The sketch was the ninth released after Wetterling was taken.

"The cases are similar, and we're not ruling it out," Sanner said. "But there are significant differences, too."

The Cold Spring case involved a 12-year-old boy who was pulled into a blue car about 9:45 p.m. on Jan. 13, 1989, as he walked home from ice skating. The driver stopped to ask the boy directions before grabbing him.

The man told the boy he had a gun, but the boy never saw one. He took the boy to a rural area north of Richmond and sexually assaulted him. He then pushed the boy from the car into a ditch.

At the time, the boy described his attacker as a man wearing military fatigues and black boots, possibly military boots. The abductor had husky shoulders and a low-pitched, raspy voice.

Wetterling was taken about 9:15 p.m. on Oct. 22, 1989, from 91st Avenue, southeast of St. Joseph. He was riding his bike home with his brother and a friend when a masked gunman approached them.

The gunman came out of a ditch or a side road and told the boys to throw their bikes into the ditch and lie on the ground. He asked the boys' ages and then told the other two to run. Jacob Wetterling has never been found.

The boys in the Wetterling case described the kidnapper as wearing dark clothing and black boots. The man also was described as having a raspy voice.

Sanner said detectives have continued investigations into the cases. Deputies took people in for questioning in connection with the Cold Spring case but never arrested anyone, Sanner said.

The investigation into the Wetterling case took a twist with last fall's information. That forced investigators to refocus on suspects who couldn't be cleared immediately after the abduction.

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Two local tragedies gave birth to hope

Wetterling Foundation

The Jacob Wetterling Foundation, now based in St. Paul, is a resource network and advocacy headquarters for the cause of missing children everywhere. For many years, the Foundation functioned in St. Joseph.

On Oct. 22, 1989, 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling of St. Joseph was abducted by a masked gunman and has not been seen or heard from since. The shocking abduction instantly became national news.

Wetterling's friends and family found the strength and determination to start a movement called "Jacob's Hope." From that movement a foundation took root locally and became a very influential nerve center for the cause of missing children. The foundation has been instrumental in helping change laws, including a requirement for community notification when known sex offenders move into a neighborhood. The foundation has also helped spur quicker coordination among law enforcement agencies nationally when children are reported missing.

Its goal is to prevent child abductions through a constant education program that involves a speaker's bureau, publication of widely disseminated brochures and the production of child-safety videotapes. The foundation also promotes the importance of caring and love for all children as a means of preventing abductions and perhaps even in preventing the personality maladjustments that sometimes cause children to grow into adults who end up harming children.

Jacob's mother, Patty, has become a national spokesperson for the cause of missing children and has been widely applauded and honored for her tireless efforts. Former President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush have personally presented her with awards for her never-ending dedication to children.

In May 2004, Wetterling announced she would run for the U.S. Congress in District 6. She was narrowly defeated. In 2006, she lost a second bid for a seat in the U.S. Congress.

For more information, contact the Jacob Wetterling Foundation at (651) 714-4673.

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Photo by Ralph Bell

Dr. Jerry and Patty Wetterling are admired worldwide for their efforts to protect children. Jerry Wetterling has operated a chiropractic business in St. Joseph for 30 years.

Brian Klinefelter Memorial Foundation

On Jan. 29, 1996, a shocking tragedy occurred in St. Joseph. While making a traffic stop on Highway 27, St. Joseph Police Officer Brian Klinefelter was shot to death.

Family, friends and concerned citizens pulled together to bring something positive out of Klinefelter's untimely and senseless death.

The Brian Klinefelter Foundation was set up as an ongoing tribute to the officer and others who died in the line of duty. The foundation focuses on youth development, specifically to provide scholarships for students who want to study law enforcement. The foundation also funds programs to connect adults and youth in hopes of preventing negative behaviors.

An impressive marble likeness of Klinefelter is a must-see when visitors take a stroll through Brian Klinefelter Memorial Park in south St. Joseph.

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Veterans walk for missing children

Group's final 60-mile trek comes 15 years after 1st ended in Wetterlings' driveway

By Michelle Tan
mtan@stcloudtimes.com



Times photos by Paul Middlestaedt, pmiddlestaedt@stcloudtimes.com

Jerry Wetterling (right) leads a group of walkers Sunday on Stearns County Road 75 into St. Joseph. It was the last part of a 60-mile journey that began Friday in Anoka.

ST. JOSEPH — They braved the bitter cold and old war injuries one last time to deliver hope to people from Anoka all the way to St. Joseph.

The walkers, about 16 Vietnam veterans in all, walked 60 miles in three days. Their journey ended Sunday at the site where 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling was abducted 15 years ago.



Jacob Wetterling
Was abducted 15 years ago

"We can't express how much your taking on this mission has meant to us all these years," Jacob's father, Jerry Wetterling, said as the group gathered around a lone candle at the abduction site.

The veterans have completed the three-day walk every five years for 15 years to raise awareness for missing children, but this year's was their last.

Organizer Mike Clark of Anoka was moved by the Wetterling family's pain.

"My youngest son was the same age as Jacob," he said. "I couldn't imagine living without my own 11-year-old."

When the veterans completed the first walk in December 1989, two months after Jacob was taken, they arrived at the Wetterlings' St. Joseph Township home on Christmas Day.

"It reminded people that some people's kids were missing on Christmas, the time when families are supposed to be together," Clark said.

Jacob's mother, Patty Wetterling, said she'll never forget the sight of those veterans walking up her driveway on that first Christmas Day without Jacob.

See WALK, 2B ▶



A candle burns in remembrance of Jacob Wetterling where he was abducted 15 years ago in St. Joseph.

From Page 1B

Walk

"These guys have the biggest hearts in the world, and they reached out to us," she said, tears welling in her eyes. "They brought us hope when we were hurting. It speaks to what people can do for each other."

It was time to end the grueling walk, which was sponsored by the Viet Nam Veterans of America Anoka County chapter No. 470, Clark said. Many of the veterans are getting older. Some walk with the help of walking sticks. Others are suffering from old war injuries.

"It's sad to see it end," Clark said. "It's like the ending of an era."

Clark said he hopes people who saw them walking throughout the years will take care of their own children and remember the children who are missing.

"It grew beyond Jacob," Patty Wetterling said about the walks. "It's for all the missing children."

RIDER BENNETT

Bruce H. Hanley
(612) 340-8021
bhanley@riderlaw.com

July 9, 2004

Mr. Daniel Rassier
29748 91st Avenue
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Dear Daniel:

I am writing to follow up with you to see how your situation regarding the Wetterling matter has developed. Have you been contacted further by anyone from Stearns County or the State of Minnesota? I last wrote to you in March and wanted to check back with you to find out if you need any assistance or advice at this time. If you have any questions or concerns at all, please feel free to contact me.

Enclosed are a few more of my business cards for your information. Again, please continue to keep any documents, newspaper articles, etc. that you have collected and put them in a folder marked "attorney/client privilege." If you would like to meet to discuss the situation further, please let me know or do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

RIDER BENNETT, LLP

By Bruce H. Hanley (ccb)
Bruce H. Hanley

BHH/dr
Enclosures

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5990-1699 2469 drn 4

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drassier@hotmail.com

From : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com> Printed: Tuesday, July 13, 2004 2:27 PM
Sent : Tuesday, July 13, 2004 2:24 PM
To : bhhanley@riderlaw.com
CC : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : Update on Wetterling Matter

Hello Bruce:

Thanks for getting back to me. Life is going to fast. How are you? Am I remembering this right? That is, I heard from my sister Joyce that you suddenly got very sick or had cancer? Maybe my memory is all mixed up? Whether this is accurate or not, I sure hope you are doing well.

The Stearns County People and the MN Investigators have not contacted me directly since that mess in February started. What they have been doing though is talking to people who know me and that type of thing looking for something they can use. People have come up to me and asked me point blank about the idea of me having something to do with the kidnapping.

One thing that comes to my mind is this: On our farm we have this gravel pit where over the years, garbage and what not has been disgarded. In later Spring I was down there, cleaning up some stuff (I've done a lot of this over the years.). Well, someone must have seen me down there and called it in to the police. So when I was in school a couple of days later, the MN investigator and Stearns County Police (they didn't leave a card) came and talked to my Dad and wanted to check it out. So Dad brought them down to the pit for the "tour" and he showed them my garage where I do lots of recycling stuff for metals/plastic/glass. They told my Dad they had to check it out because someone saw me down there with a shovel digging.

I have not contacted them but sure would like to because I think they are completely mixed up or just playing some sort of game with me or just are using me to trick someone else into slipping up.

Channel 9 is the station that made things very bad for us. Channel 11 came out with their twist on things later and that kinda of did me in here at school. Parents and kids started talking and thinking way too much. But Summer came and hopefully-- all will fade away.

As I recall you are a "Criminal Lawyer". So just recently-I've been calling around St. Cloud with the idea of taking Channel 9 to court for defamation of character or that sort of thing. I only found this one lawyer who is thinking about it but he just hasn't called back yet. It's taking a long time, so I don't know what's up. He thought it was "interesting".

Do you have any ideas for a lawyer for this type of case. I was even thinking about sueing the police in someway because everything points to them for releasing my name or something just to make trouble for me.

Can you comment on any of my thoughts?

Hope you are doing well and take care.

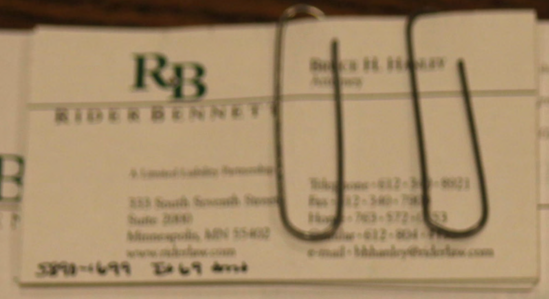
I only check emails about 1x a week during the Summer but I thought this may be good to put my situation into words a bit for you. I sure wish I could be of further help in solving this case, but as it is, the police have silenced one very important witness.

Thanks for keeping in touch -

Dan Rassier
320-363-8427

drassier@hotmail.com

5890 4699 It69 Smr



Bruce H. Hanley
(612) 340-8921
bhhanley@riderlaw.com

March 1, 2004

Mr. Daniel Rassier
29748 91st Avenue
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Dear Daniel:

I am enclosing for your information a copy of my resume and some of my business cards.

Please keep any documents, newspaper articles, etc. that you have collected and put them in a folder marked "attorney/client privilege." When we have the opportunity to meet, I will then collect those documents from you.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

RIDER BENNETT, LLP

By Bruce H. Hanley
Bruce H. Hanley

BHH/djb
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March 1, 2004

Mr. Daniel Rassier
29748 91st Avenue
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Dear Daniel:

I am enclosing for your information a copy of my resume and some of my business cards.

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Very truly yours,

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RESUME

Admitted to Minnesota Bar on April 22, 1976;
Admitted to U.S. District Court Minnesota 1976;
Admitted to Practice before United States Supreme Court on October 11, 1983;
Admitted to Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals 1985; and
Admitted to Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals 1986 (Pro Hac Vice);
Admitted as Member of Bar of Fifth Circuit 1997 (Pro Hac Vice);
Admitted to U.S. District Court South Dakota 1982 (Pro Hac Vice); 1993 (Pro Hac Vice); 1996 (Pro Hac Vice);
Admitted to U.S. District Court Oklahoma 1986 (Pro Hac Vice);
Admitted to U.S. District Court Mississippi 1986 (Pro Hac Vice);
Appointed CJA Lawyer U.S. District Court Mississippi 1996;
Admitted to U.S. District Court Alabama 1987 (Pro Hac Vice);
Admitted to U.S. District Court Virginia 1990 (Pro Hac Vice);
Admitted to U.S. District Court Iowa 1991 (Pro Hac Vice);
Admitted to Mississippi State District Court 1986 (Pro Hac Vice);
Admitted to North Dakota State District Court 1990 (Pro Hac Vice);
Admitted to Wisconsin District Court 1989 (Pro Hac Vice);
Admitted to U.S. District Court California 1998 (Pro Hac Vice);
Admitted to U.S. District Court Alaska 2000 (Pro Hac Vice).

EDUCATION

William Mitchell College of Law
St. Paul, Minnesota
J.D. Degree - January, 1976

University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota
B.S.B. Business Administration, 1972 - with honors

5890-1699 Id. 69 dml

EMPLOYMENT

5/1/00 to Present — **Rider, Bennett, LLP**
Partner practicing primarily in the areas of white collar criminal defense in State and Federal Court; Chair of the White Collar Criminal Defense Section.

3/15/99 to 5/1/00 — **Bruce H. Hanley, P.A., 701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 700, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415**
Solo practitioner practicing primarily in the areas of white collar criminal defense in State and Federal Court. Of counsel to Dunkley, Bennett & Christensen, a civil practice firm consisting of approximately eighteen lawyers. Named in the Minnesota Consumer Guidebook to Law & Leading Attorneys in 1997-2000 as leading attorneys in criminal law in polls by attorneys.

5/1/95 to 3/15/99 — **Hanley & Dejoras, P.A., 701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 700, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415**
Two person criminal defense office practicing primarily in the areas of white collar criminal defense in State and Federal Court. Of counsel to Dunkley, Bennett & Christensen, a civil practice firm consisting of approximately eighteen lawyers. Named in the Minnesota Consumer Guidebook to Law & Leading Attorneys in 1997-2000 as leading attorneys in criminal law in polls by attorneys.

10/1/85 to 5/1/95 — **Bruce H. Hanley, P.A., 701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 700, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415**
Solo practitioner practicing primarily in the areas of white collar criminal defense in State and Federal Court. Of Counsel to Dunkley, Bennett & Christensen, a civil practice firm consisting of approximately eighteen lawyers.

1/79 to 10/1/85 — **Hanley, Hergott & Hunziker, Attorneys at Law, 701 Fourth Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415.**
Three lawyer, general practice firm with emphasis on criminal defense, personal injury, domestic and real estate. My partners were Daniel W. Hergott and Thomas J. Hunziker. My particular practice maintained a heavy emphasis on trial work in County, District and Federal Courts. Mr. Hergott and Mr. Hunziker joined Dunkley, Bennett & Christensen in 1986, and I became "Of Counsel".

1/78 to 12/21/78 — **Bruce H. Hanley, Attorney at Law, Suite 100, 605 Fourth Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415.**
I moved my solo practice into the above address and rented from the law firm of Doyle & Ranum--Stephen Doyle and James Ranum. My practice consisted of a general practice with an emphasis on criminal law.

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1978 to 1979 — Bruce H. Hanley, Attorney at Law, 1201 East 38th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407.

I opened a storefront neighborhood law office in a converted candy store in South Minneapolis. The partnership employing me as a law clerk in my last year of law school dissolved, one of the partners moved out, and an office was available for me to begin practice as a sole practitioner. Early on, I handled criminal matters consisting of both felonies and misdemeanors. My practice also involved marriage dissolutions, real estate purchases and sales, personal injuries, corporate work, probate work, contract disputes and a smattering of neighborhood counseling.

PERSONAL

Date of Birth: May 31, 1950
Marital Status: Married, two children: Vanessa Brooke Hanley (born 8/10/78), and Deanna Buss (stepdaughter, born 5/23/68), now Deanna Pierce.
Spouse: Suzanne L. Hanley

MEMBERSHIPS/PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Certified by National Board of Trial Advocates as a Criminal Trial Specialist (1986 to present).

2. Member Academy of Certified Trial Lawyers of Minnesota, 1986. Treasurer 1989 - 1990; Secretary 1990-1991; Dean 1991-1992.

3. Member American Bar Association.

   - White Collar Crime Committee
   - Criminal Justice Section
   - Chair Defense Function (1995-96 and 1996-97)

4. Member Minnesota State Bar Association

   - Vice Chair - Criminal Law Section (1982)
   - Chair - Criminal Law Section, (1983-84; 1984-85)
   - Community Relations Committee
   - Practice Development Committee

5. Member Hennepin County Bar Association

   - Chair - Public Relations Committee, (1981)
   - Vice Chair - Young Lawyers Committee (1980-81)
   - Chair - Lawyer Referral and Information Service
   - Committee, (1981 and 1983)
   - Hennepin Lawyer Committee
   - Criminal Law Committee

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- Co-Chair, Program Committee (1984-85; 1985-86)
- Speaker's Bureau

6. Member Federal Bar Association (1980-1981); (1998-present.)

7. Life Member National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

- Member National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers White Collar Crime Committee.
- Vice-Chair 2002-2003
- Member National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Assistance Strike Force Committee, 1995-present; Chair of Eighth Circuit Division 1997-1999; co-chair 2001-present.
- Member National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Champion Advisory Board Committee.
- Member National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Legislative Committee for Eighth Circuit.

8. Member Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association 1976-2002

- Co-author of Criminal Law Report for "MTLA Magazine" on regular basis 1986 with Lisa Dejoras until 1993;
- Board of Directors (1984)

9. Member Minnesota Society for Criminal Justice (1990-1993).

10. Member Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

- (Co-organizer with Thomas Kelly)
- President (1992-1993);
- Treasurer (1990-1991);
- Vice President (1991-1992);
- Board of Directors (1990-1996).

11. Member Board of Directors of the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights (1991-1993) (formerly Minnesota Lawyers International Human Rights Committee).

- Death Penalty Project Steering Committee Member
- Volunteer Lawyer for American Richard Jolly imprisoned in Honduras, Latin America on drug charges; indicted in Federal Court in Orlando, Florida
- Recipient 1997 Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights Volunteer Award

12. Member DWI Task Force, University of Minnesota Law School, Chaired by Professor Stephen Simon.

13. Member Hennepin County Public Defender Conflict's Panel (1984-1992).

14. Member United States Federal Court Public Defender Panel (CJA Panel).

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15. Member University of Minnesota Alumni Association.

16. Vice President - Evans Scholars Alumni Association, Minnesota Chapter, (1983).

17. President - Evans Scholars Alumni Association - Minnesota Chapter, (1984).

18. Volunteer lawyer for James Billiott on Mississippi Death Row, Death Penalty Case since April, 1985.

19. Received an Outstanding Young Man of America Award for 1986 from Outstanding Young Men of America, Montgomery, Alabama.

20. Listed in publication "Guidebook to Law & Leading Lawyers" Minnesota 1996 - 1999, American Research Corporation, listed under Criminal Law.

21. Listed in Strathmore's "Who's Who Registry of Business Leaders" 1996 Lawyers Edition.

22. Designated "Superlawyer" by Minnesota Journal of Law and Politics, 1996-Present.

23. Co-Founder/Master, Past President Douglas K. Amdahl American Inn of Court 1990 - present, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

24. William Mitchell College of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors 1996-present; President of Board of Directors 2002-2004.

25. Minnesota Trial Courts Steering Committee, 1996-97.

26. Appointed by ABA to National Institute of Justice (NIJ) National Medicolegal Review panel (1996) Re: Medicolegal Death Investigator Guidelines and Training Project.

27. Minnesota State Bar Association Media Relations Task Force (1996).

28. Hennepin County District Court Criminal Justice Task Force (1990-present).

29. Minnesota State Bar Association Fair Response Committee (1998-present).

30. Member DRI – White Collar Criminal Crime Committee.

31. Member NTSB Bar Association (2002-Present).

32. Member Minnesota Supreme Court – Rules of Criminal Procedure Committee (2004).

TEACHING/WRITING ACTIVITIES

1. Adjunct Professor, William Mitchell College of Law, Trial Advocacy Program; Advanced Trial Advocacy Program (1988-1991)

2. Adjunct Professor Hamline Law School, St. Paul, Minnesota - Trial Advocacy Class (1990)

3. Clinical Instructor, Hamline Law School, St. Paul, Minnesota - Lawyering Skills Program (1978-present)

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4. Advisor for Mock Trial Court at Edina High School Law Class taught by Beverly Otnum, (1979-1988).

5. Coordinator and Panel Member, Misdemeanor Defense Project - Hennepin County Bar Association.

6. Panel member ABA Seminar, "Winning Strategies in DWI Cases", December 1983, Minneapolis.

7. Instructor, "Developments in Criminal Practice and Procedure", April, 1984, Moorhead, Minnesota, sponsored by Minnesota CLE.

8. Panel moderator and member, "Media and the Courts Seminar", April 7, 1984, Minneapolis, Minnesota sponsored by Minnesota State Bar Association and Hennepin County Bar Association.

9. Instructor, University of Minnesota Law School, Trial Skills Course, Professor Roger Park, "Voir Dire" in criminal trial 1986.

10. Panel Member, "Minn. Approaches to DWI and the Problem Drinker" - University of Minnesota sponsored seminar, April 11, 1986.

11. Instructor - "Criminal Case Concerns 1986 Issues and Innovations" - sponsored by the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association, May 9, 1986.

12. Appeared as guest criminal defense expert on "Larry King Live" Television Program CNN TV January 5, 1987, subject "Date Rape and Criminal Law."

13. Contributing Editor - Criminal Law to Minnesota Law Journal publication, (1986).

14. Instructor - University of Minnesota Practical Judge Training Courses on an ongoing basis.

15. Instructor - "Anatomy of a Criminal Trial", Advanced Legal Education of Hamline University School of Law, March 25, 1988.

16. Instructor - "23rd Annual Criminal Justice Institute", Minnesota State Bar Association Continuing Legal Education, August 23, 1988.

17. Panel Member "Objections at Trial and How to Deal with the Difficult Lawyer", National Practice Institute Continuing Legal Education Program, September 7, 1990, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

18. Federal Defender Seminar - January 9, 1993; Panel Member "Development of a Theory of Defense."

19. Advisor MSBA Mock Trial Competition 1993-1995 for Breck High School.

20. Panel member - "Professionals at Risk", December 2-3, 1993, Minnesota Institute of Legal Education, Bloomington, Minnesota.

21. Instructor - Academy of Certified Trial Lawyers of Minnesota Spring CLE, March 20-27, 1993, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

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- Criminal Law in Review
- Communication Skills

22. Instructor - "Against the Odds: Successful Criminal Defense Strategies", Minnesota Death Penalty Defense Project, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, in collaboration with ABA, Texas Appellate Practice and Education Resource Center, Loyola Death Penalty Resource Center, April 22-24, 1993.

23. Speaker - "Health Care Fraud and Abuse: A Legal Update", Minnesota Medical Association. Topic: What To Do When You are Facing an Investigation or Prosecution?, May 7, 1993.

24. Speaker - 1994 ACTLM Spring CLE - Handling High Profile Cases, St. Maarten, March 14-18, 1994.

25. Author and grader - 1994 National Board of Trial Advocacy Criminal Trial Specialist Exam Question re: trial practice and procedure.

26. Speaker - "Murder, Mysteries and More", Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Topic: Co-Counsel in Multi-Defendant Cases: Friends or Foes, October 14, 1994.

27. Speaker - First Annual "Visions of Excellence Seminar", Professional Education Resource Center, Topic: Dynamic Closing Arguments - the O.J. Simpson Case, St. Paul Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota, June 27, 1995.

28. Speaker - "The Mexican Connection", Law Offices of Arthur Martinez, Cancun, Mexico, January 14-17, 1996.

29. Speaker - "How to Close Your Case: Proven Final Arguments", Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota, February 10, 1996.

30. Speaker - "Defending the High Profile Criminal Sex Case", Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Southwest Minnesota Criminal Defense Bar Conference/Meeting, Mankato, Minnesota, April 11, 1996.

31. Speaker - "Trial Motions/Motions in Limine", ABA Criminal Justice Section Spring Council Meeting, Sun Valley, Idaho, April 26, 1996.

32. Speaker - "Race, Media and Capital Punishment", Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, May 23, 1996.

33. Speaker - "Successful Trial Proof and How to Deal with the Difficult Judge", Hennepin County Bar Association, June 14, 1996.

34. Course Chair, Minnesota Institute of Legal Education, Criminal Law Issues, Minneapolis, Minnesota, December 5, 1996.

35. Coordinator and Moderator, Minnesota Academy of Certified Trial Lawyers' Presentation January 18, 1997 "The Paperless Trial", Minneapolis, MN.

36. Speaker - "Money Laundering and Asset Forfeiture - Why Crime Doesn't Pay" Minnesota Institute of Legal Education, May 20, 1997.

37. Speaker - "Federal Criminal Law and Procedure - When the Defendant Need Defending: An Ethical Dilemma", Iowa Federal Public Defender's Office, Fall 1997, Des Moines, Iowa.

38. Speaker - "Pretrial Discovery: Keeping Up With and Ahead of the Prosecution While They Investigate Your Client", Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, October 24, 1997.

39. Speaker - "National Medicolegal Death Investigator Guidelines Project", American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Panel Discussion, February 14, 1998, San Francisco

40. Speaker - "The First Amendment vs. The Sixth Amendment", Amdahl Inn of Court, February 19, 1998.

41. Speaker - "Cross Examination of Death Scene Investigators", Minnesota State Bar Association, Criminal Law Section, April 17, 1998.

42. Speaker - "Corporate Criminal Responsibility and White Collar Crime", Minnesota Institute of Legal Education, May 5, 1998; Topic - "Bid Rigging and Price Fixing in the State of Minnesota."

43. Speaker - "Demonstrative Evidence-Magic That Brings Words to Life", Minnesota Institute of Legal Education, December 8, 1999; Topic - "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words."

44. Panel Member/Presenter - Minnesota Judicial College, Continuing Legal Education Annual Conference Addressing Issues of Rule 404(b) Spreigl - Other Crime Evidence In the Criminal Trial, 1997, 1998, 2000.

45. Speaker - Defense Practice Group Seminar, Southview Country Club, September 14, 2000; Topic - "General Liability (Bar Fights)

46. Panelist - All District Legal Education, Ethics and Elimination of Bias, November 13, 2000; Topic - "Representing the Bad Client".

47. Speaker - Financial Investigations, Minnesota Institute of Legal Education, March 6, 2001; Topic - "Anatomy of An Investigation: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"

48. Speaker - 64th Annual Wastewater Operations Conference, March 21-23, 2001; Topic; "When Good Things Go Bad: Environmental Criminal Defense"

ARTICLES/PUBLICATIONS

1. Article on Federal Corporate Sentencing Guidelines, Hennepin Lawyer, September/October 1992.

2. Article on State Practitioner's and Federal Sentencing Guidelines, Challenger, September 1992, Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Publication.

3. Profiled as "Champion" in the NACDL Publication, Champion, June 1991.

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4. "Why Criminal Defense Lawyers Win Their Cases", Vol. 1 The Verdict, June 1996, Publication for Law Enforcement Professionals, Publisher - Legrand & Associates, Inc.

5. United States, Department of Justice, National Guidelines for Death Investigation: Research Report, Washington: G.P.O., 1997.

6. Article "Developing National Guidelines for Death Scene Investigations, Criminal Justice, American Bar Association, Summer 1999 co-author with Steven C. Clark.

HONORS

- Selected as a leading Minnesota Attorney, American Research Corporation, Law & Leading Lawyers, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001
- Top 100 Lawyers 2001, 2002, 2003
- Nominated and presented with Volunteer Award from the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, 1997
- Presented with the Distinguished Service Award of the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers at the Annual Meeting/Dinner, February 5, 2000
- Inducted as Fellow to American College of Trial Lawyers, October 2002.

Rev. 12/03

RB RIDER BENNETT EGAN & ARUNDEL

5890-1699 Ex. 69 Smith

First Class Mail

NIERENGARTEN LAW OFFICES
Roosevelt Office Park
600 25th Ave. South, Suite #106
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Mr. Dan Kassier
29748 91st Ave
St Joseph Mn
56374

5890-1699
Jr. 69 Smt

8811 Olson Hwy
Mplr 55427

Dan Kassel
Rocori Middle School
533 Main St
Cold Spring MN 56320

56320#2325 0000

S890-1699 Jt. 69 Smt

KARE 11

July 19, 2005

Dan Rassier
29748 91 Ave
Saint Joseph, MN 56374

Dan –

My name is Rick Kupchella. I work with KARE 11 News.

I stopped by your place last week hoping to speak with you.

You were gone… and I ended up speaking with your father instead.

Your father talked about the immense frustration the Wetterling investigation has been on your family… he referred to the degree of attention by the sheriff's department, the media… & the general awareness of the community as to what's going on as well.

He talked about your taking the lie detector test, cooperating with the sheriff's investigators through several rounds of questioning & having extreme difficulty getting the investigators to believe what it is you are telling them.

It is obvious you have been through a lot with this. And it is believable that there's a good-degree of awareness in your community that you are the focus of this case.

What's missing – from a public point-of-view, Dan – is your own voice.

With all respect, consider what you could accomplish by talking with us.

1. Tell us about all you've done to try & cooperate with this case.
2. Tell us about the lie detector test.
3. Tell us about living the life you've lived in the course of the last 12-24 months as the obvious focus of this most-high-profile case.

This would be an opportunity for you to help yourself – far more than you've been able to do – to date.

KARE 11 TV • 8811 Olson Memorial Highway • Minneapolis, MN 55427 • 763-546-1111 • kare11.com
GANNETT

320-1699 Ext. 69 Sm

KARE 11

Rick Kupchella
Anchor/Reporter
763-797-7237 • Cell 612-965-9998 • Fax 763-546-8606

We're not looking to do some kind of "ambush" interview.

This letter is the absolute-opposite approach.

You could do this interview with your own lawyer present, if you wish.
People would understand that.

This has already gone-on for a long time, Dan.
And there's no indication it will simply go away.

You could do a lot more to help yourself, and your family... by explaining to the public – not only your own innocence… but what you've been living with the for the last couple years.

I hope you'll take advantage of the opportunity.

~~You can call~~ me to talk – off camera if you like – at any time.

Sincerely,

Rick Kupchella
KARE Television
612.965.9998
rkupchella@kare11.com

ps: I am sending a copy of this letter to your home & to your school… with the hope that you will be able to get it from at least one of these locations.

8811 Olson Hwy
Mpls 55427

DAN KASSIER
29748 91st Ave
St Joseph MN 56374

5810-1699 Int. 69 8mm

56374#5608 0000

KARE 11

July 19, 2005

Dan Rassier
29748 91 Ave
Saint Joseph, MN 56374

Dan –

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I stopped by your place last week hoping to speak with you.

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3. Tell us about living the life you've lived in the course of the last 12-24 months as the obvious focus of this most-high-profile case.

This would be an opportunity for you to help yourself – far more than you've been able to do – to date.

KARE 11 TV • 8811 Olson Memorial Highway • Minneapolis, MN 55427 • 763-

GANNETT

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KARE 11

Rick Kupchella

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You can call me to talk – off camera if you like – at any time.

Sincerely,

Rick Kupchella
KARE Television
612.965.9998
rkupchella@kare11.com

ps: I am sending a copy of this letter to your home & to your school… with the hope that you will be able to get it from at least one of these locations.



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our county commissioner because
st for the sheriff's office. These
I attach a list of the Stearns County

over the BCA. Rather, the BCA is
, of which Michael Campion is the
r Campion is as follows:

issioner
ublic Safety
nsquare
street
t. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 282-6565

5890 - 1699 34.69 Bnk

St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 282-6565

Facsimile: (651) 297-4193 • TTY: (651) 297-7206 • Toll Free Lines: (800) 657-3787 (Voice), (800) 366-4812 (TTY) • www.ag.state.mn.us
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MIKE HATCH
ATTORNEY GENERAL
102 STATE CAPITOL
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-1002

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0.57 7

DAN RASSIER
29748 91ST AVENUE
ST. JOSEPH, MN 56374

FGCHMMP 56374

5890-1699 34.69 Bnk

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

MIKE HATCH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

102 STATE CAPITOL
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1002
TELEPHONE: (651) 296-6196

August 11, 2004

Dan Rassier
29748 91st Avenue
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Dear Mr. Rassier:

I thank you for your July 24, 2004 email.

You state that the Stearns County Sheriff's Department and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension have questionable tactics and you request information on who to contact about this. You indicate that you tried to discuss your concerns with these agencies, but they were not helpful.

Under Minnesota law, the Attorney General's Office has limited authority. For instance, the legislature delegated the authority to investigate criminal matters to the county sheriff and municipal police departments. In addition, the legislature delegated the authority to prosecute criminal matters to the county attorney. The legislature did not delegate to the Attorney General's Office, however, any authority to investigate or prosecute criminal matters, or to supervise or intervene in local investigations or prosecutions. As a result, this Office has no supervising authority over local law enforcement. Notwithstanding these limitations, I can provide the following comments, which I hope you will find helpful.

First, this Office does not have jurisdiction over the Stearns County Sheriff, who is an elected official. Indeed, the legislature has not delegated any authority to this Office to intervene or review criminal matters. I recommend that you contact your county commissioner because the county commissioners are involved in setting the budget for the sheriff's office. These elected officials are generally responsive to their electorates. I attach a list of the Stearns County Commissioners.

Second, this Office also does not have jurisdiction over the BCA. Rather, the BCA is administered by the Department of Public Safety (DPS), of which Michael Campion is the Commissioner. The contact information for Commissioner Campion is as follows:

Michael Campion, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Central Office, Townsquare
444 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 282-6565

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Finally, peace officers in Minnesota are licensed and regulated by the Peace Officers Standard and Training Board (POST Board). The POST Board has jurisdiction to receive complaints about licensed peace officers and to investigate them. Accordingly, you may wish to file a complaint with the POST Board regarding any unlawful or inappropriate behavior by the police. The contact information for the POST Board is as follows:

Neil Melton, Executive Director
POST Board
1600 University Avenue
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-643-3060

I thank you again for your email. I hope this information is helpful to you.

Very truly yours,

MIKE HATCH
Attorney General
State of Minnesota

Enclosure

AG: #1269795-v1

msn Hotmail®

drassier@hotmail.com Printed: Wednesday, September 1, 2004 3:51 PM

From : Dan Rassier <drassier@hotmail.com>
Sent : Tuesday, July 27, 2004 5:20 PM
To : attorney.general@state.mn.us
CC : drassier@hotmail.com
Subject : Who do I contact?

Hello and thank you taking the time to help me out here.

Who do I contact in reporting what I would call questionable tactics and possilble incompetence in regards to:

The Stearns Country Sheriff Department

"BCA" Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Both departments were confused about who I should discuss my concerns with. Obviously, my concerns deal with them directly and they would be unable to resolve the problems they caused and developed. This is a very serious and true situation and not just a idealistic question. I really do need some guidance.

Thank you!

Dan Rassier
29748 91st Ave
St. Joseph, MN 56374

320-363-8427

drassier@hotmail.com

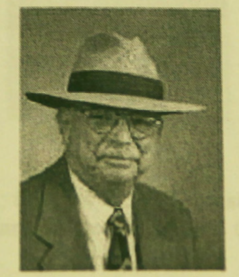
Stearns County Officials



Stearns County Board of Commissioners
Standing (left-right): Don Otte, Larry Haws, Mark Sakry
Seated (left-right): Leigh Lenzmeier, Vince Schaefer

see other Board and Commissioner appointments

Meet the Stearns County Commissioners



LARRY HAWS (FIRST DISTRICT)
555 North 5th Avenue
St. Cloud, MN 56303
(320)252-9156
Term of office expires: 1/1/05
E-mail: larry.haws@co.stearns.mn.us

Representing a portion of the City of St. Cloud (Ward 1, Precincts 4 and 5; Ward 3, Precincts 1, 2, 3, and 5; Ward 4, all Precincts; Ward 5, all Precincts).



MARK SAKRY (SECOND DISTRICT)
413 South 10th Avenue
Waite Park, MN 56387
(h) (320) 252-5022 (w) (320) 252-7616
Term of office expires: 1/1/07
E-mail: mark.sakry@co.stearns.mn.us

Representing the Townships of Le Sauk, St. Joseph and St. Wendel; Precinct 2 of the Township of Collegeville; the Cities of St. Joseph, Sartell and Waite Park.

VINCE SCHAEFER (THIRD DISTRICT)
P.O. Box 60
Rockville, MN 56369
(h) (320) 253-1499
Term of office expires: 1/1/07
E-mail: vince.schaefer@co.stearns.mn.us



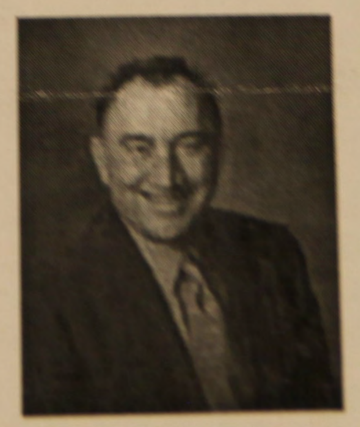
Representing the Townships of Avon, Brockway, Precinct 1 of Collegeville, Eden Lake, Holding, Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, Munson, Rockville, and Wakefield; the Cities of Avon, Cold Spring, Eden Valley, Holdingford, Kimball, Pleasant Lake, Richmond, Rockville, and St. Stephen.

LEIGH LENZMEIER (FOURTH DISTRICT)
919 W. St. Germain, Suite 2000
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(320) 251-0653
Term of office expires: 1/1/05
E-mail: leigh.lenzmeier@co.stearns.mn.us



Representing the Townships of Fair Haven and Lynden; the City of St. Augusta, and a portion of the City of St. Cloud (Ward 1, Precincts 1, 2, 2A, and 3; Ward 3, Precincts 4 and 6; and Ward 6, all precincts).

DON OTTE (FIFTH DISTRICT)
39298 County Road 185
Sauk Centre, MN 56378
(320)352-1868
Term of office expires: 1/1/07
Toll free: 1-877-Don-Otte (366-6883)
E-mail: don.otte@co.stearns.mn.us



Representing the Townships of Albany, Ashley, Crow Lake, Crow River, Farming, Getty, Grove, Krain, Lake George, Lake Henry, Melrose, Millwood, North Fork, Oak, Paynesville, Raymond, St. Martin, Sauk Centre, Spring Hill, and Zion; the Cities of Albany, Belgrade, Brooten, Elrosa, Freeport, Greenwald, Lake Henry, Meire Grove, Melrose, New Munich, Paynesville, Roscoe, St. Anthony, St. Martin, St. Rosa, Sauk Centre and Spring Hill.

Other Board and Committee Appointments

Download the list of Commissioner appointments for 2004 (196 Kb PDF file)

or **jump to the Board/Commission Vacancies page**

About the County Commission

Stearns County has the most popular form of county government--the commission form. There are five Commissioners who serve for 4 year overlapping terms and are elected by district. The Stearns County Board convenes the first, third and fourth Tuesday of each month, and at other times as necessary.

See the calendar for Board of Commissioners' meetings

Major responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

a. Establishing a budget and levying taxes to finance County services.
b. Providing assistance to constituents as their elected representative.
c. Appointing members to County Board committees (with the exception of elected officials).
d. Serving on the Board of Health as well as several other committees and boards.
e. Managing county roads, buildings, and property.
f. Planning land use within the county
g. Authorizing expenditures.
h. Serving as employer for County personnel.

The Board functions as the legislative and administrative head of Stearns County. The powers of the Board are outlined in Minnesota Statutes. The management and control of County property and the transaction of business affairs of the County are vested in the Board.

BURCUM
425 Portland Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55488

MINNEAPOLIS
FEB 27 '04
MN
PB METER
7122850
=037=
U.S. POSTAGE

Dan Rassier
29748 91st Ave
St Joseph, MN
56374-9697

56374#9606

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Stearns County Sheriff's Office

John Sanner, Sheriff • Bruce Bechtold, Chief Deputy

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER
807 Courthouse Square
P.O. Box 217
St. Cloud, MN 56302-0217

STEARNS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEWS MEDIA RELEASE
February 26, 2004

In October 2003, the Stearns County Sheriff's Office received information that led to the identification of a potential suspect vehicle in the abduction of Jacob Wetterling. The vehicle had remained unidentified for approximately 14 ½ years and the vehicle's potential involvement in the abduction also remained unclear. Since October 2003 continued investigation has led investigators to believe that the vehicle in question, and the driver, were not involved in the abduction. With this new information the investigation has refocused to examine potential local suspects that reside, or did reside, within a reasonable distance of the abduction site and could have accomplished the abduction without a vehicle. This does not completely eliminate the possibility that a vehicle was used although in light of the new information that possibility has diminished. Since October potential suspects that meet the criteria have and continue to be reexamined by investigators from the Stearns County Sheriff's Office working in conjunction with agents from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the FBI. All individuals subjected to this refocused scrutiny have been identified for years as potential suspects and have never been satisfactorily cleared.

The immediate advantage of this approach is that the investigative efforts have been channeled and focused on a much smaller group of potential subjects. Working within this group of suspects investigators have conducted recent interviews, gathered additional evidence and received new information.

This investigation is ongoing and the public is strongly encouraged to call the Jacob Wetterling Foundation at #(320) 363-0470 or the Stearns County Sheriff's Office at #(320) 259-3700 with any information regardless of how trivial it might seem. In most cases, this being no exception, public input is critical. Your information could prove to be the missing puzzle piece needed by investigators to resolve this case and provide closure for the family and community.

5890-1699 St. Cloud

Non-Emergency: (320) 251-4240 • **Administrative Office:** (320) 259-3700 Fax (320) 259-3798 • **Civil Department:** (320)259-3720 Fax (320) 656-6080
Detective: Fax (320) 259-3963 • **Jail Administrative:** (320)259-3750 Fax (320) 259-3782 • **E-mail:** john.sanner@co.stearns.mn.us

Dan,

Per your request.

Jill B

5890-1699 It.69 8mt

MIKE HATCH
ATTORNEY GENERAL
102 STATE CAPITOL
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-1002

DAN RASSIER
29748 91ST AVENUE
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STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

MIKE HATCH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

102 STATE CAPITOL
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1002
TELEPHONE: (651) 296-6196

March 23, 2006

Dan Rassier
29748 91st Avenue
St. Joseph, Minnesota 56374

Dear Mr. Rassier:

I thank you for your e-mail correspondence dated February 27 and March 12, 2006.

You state that you are a witness to a crime and would like to give the information you have to the local police. However, you are concerned that giving the police information may cause them to view you as a suspect. You state that you have been advised by friends and lawyers giving free advice to not give the information to the police. You ask for my comments on the matter.

Under Minnesota law the Attorney General's Office has limited authority. For instance, it does not have jurisdiction to provide legal advice to private citizens. Notwithstanding this limitation, I can provide the following comments, which I hope will be helpful.

First, generally people who come forward to give the police information are viewed more favorably than those who hide information. If you feel that you may in some way already be a suspect, giving the police helpful, accurate information may put you in a better light with them. However, I cannot give you legal advice on this matter. If you are uncomfortable going to the police by yourself, you may wish to hire a lawyer to represent you. It may be possible for the lawyer to go to the police with the information, leaving your name out of it. That is something you should discuss with the lawyer.

Second, if you do wish to discuss this matter with a private attorney and cannot identify an attorney to advise you, the Minnesota State Bar Association's Attorney Referral Service is available on the Internet at *www.mnfindalawyer.com*. If you do not have Internet access, it may be available at your nearest public library.

I thank you again for your correspondence. I hope this information is helpful to you.

Very truly yours,

MIKE HATCH
Attorney General
State of Minnesota

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St Joseph, MN
SAINT CLOUD MN 563
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Late Oct 09

Dan Grassier
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56374

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To Everything There Is A Season
Ecclesiastes 3:1

MN Dept of Health
Litchfield Sq
223-7300

Dan -

Thank you for taking the time to talk to me - I need to find answers - and really appreciated hearing your perspective. Maybe we can talk again some time. I work fairly often at the St Cloud MDH office but my schedule varies.

I know your family has also been through a lot since Jacob was kidnapped. We all need answers -

Thanks again
Patty Wetterling

Jacob Wetterling Foundation

Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation and Abduction

-Volunteer Information-

Benton County Attorney's Office
Victim/Witness Program
615 Highway 23 • P.O. Box 189
Foley, MN 56329
(320) 968-5182

Crime Victim Reparations Board
Crime Victim Justice Unit
651.282.6256
1.888.622.8799

For offender information,
call the **Minnesota Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)** Service at 1.877.MN4.VINE

Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Office of Justice Programs
Crime Victim Services

Additional

Date of

I authorize the

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The expiration of this auth

signature:

McAfee Transit

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The Jacob Wetterling Foundation is a 501(c)(3), tax exempt, non-profit, organization chartered in Minnesota.